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Simon Gray tells of his split with Pinter

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THE TIMES

No. 64,560 FRIDAY FEBRUARY 5 1993 45p

Pound bounces back as Bundesbank cuts rate

■ The Bundesbank cut German interest rates in a surprise move to relieve strains in the Exchange Rate Mechanism. The Chancellor, while welcoming the cut, said it should have been done sooner.

BY PHILIP WEBSTER AND JANET BUSH

A LONG-AWAITED cut in German interest rates yesterday presented Norman Lamont with a breathing space and lifted the pressure on the battered pound.

The decision by the Bundesbank compromised its domestic priorities in an effort to save the exchange-rate mechanism, where pressure on the weakest currencies had become unsustainable. The central bank's policy-making council announced a cut of 0.5 percentage points in Germany's Lombard rate and a cut of 0.25 in its discount rate.

It is the third time in recent months that the Bundesbank has cut interest rates, despite its worries about domestic inflation, because of the demands of its European partners. Sterling had risen



strongly even before the news and closed about three pfennigs higher against the mark at DM2.3921 after recording all-time lows throughout the week.

MR LAMONT said that the rate cut was "something that I think should have taken place somewhat earlier". The Chancellor has long pressed for movement from the Bundesbank and believes that its steadfast refusal to cut its rates has been the main cause of the government's economic troubles. In a clear attempt to prevent renewed market speculation that British interest rates will fall further in the wake of the German cut, he said that he was ready to defend the pound, if necessary by raising interest rates.

The Bundesbank announcement came after a week of intense pressure on the Danish krone, which had been pinned to the floor of its permitted range in the ERM, despite co-ordinated intervention in its support by other European central banks. By Wednesday the situation had become critical, with Danish reserves chronically depleted and stronger currencies becoming destabilised by the effects of the support operation.

The Bundesbank made clear that it had cut rates because of pressure within the currency system. Helmut Schlesinger, its president, said he hoped that attacks on the system would now stop. He described the waves of speculation that intermittently threaten to engulf the ERM as "an unfriendly domino game in which speculators knock down one currency after the next".

Jonathan Wilmot, chief strategist at Credit Suisse First Boston, said: "It is pretty clear that the system would not have survived another week. The Bundesbank has been moved by enormous political pressure, even down to intense lobbying of individual council members, to be good Europeans."

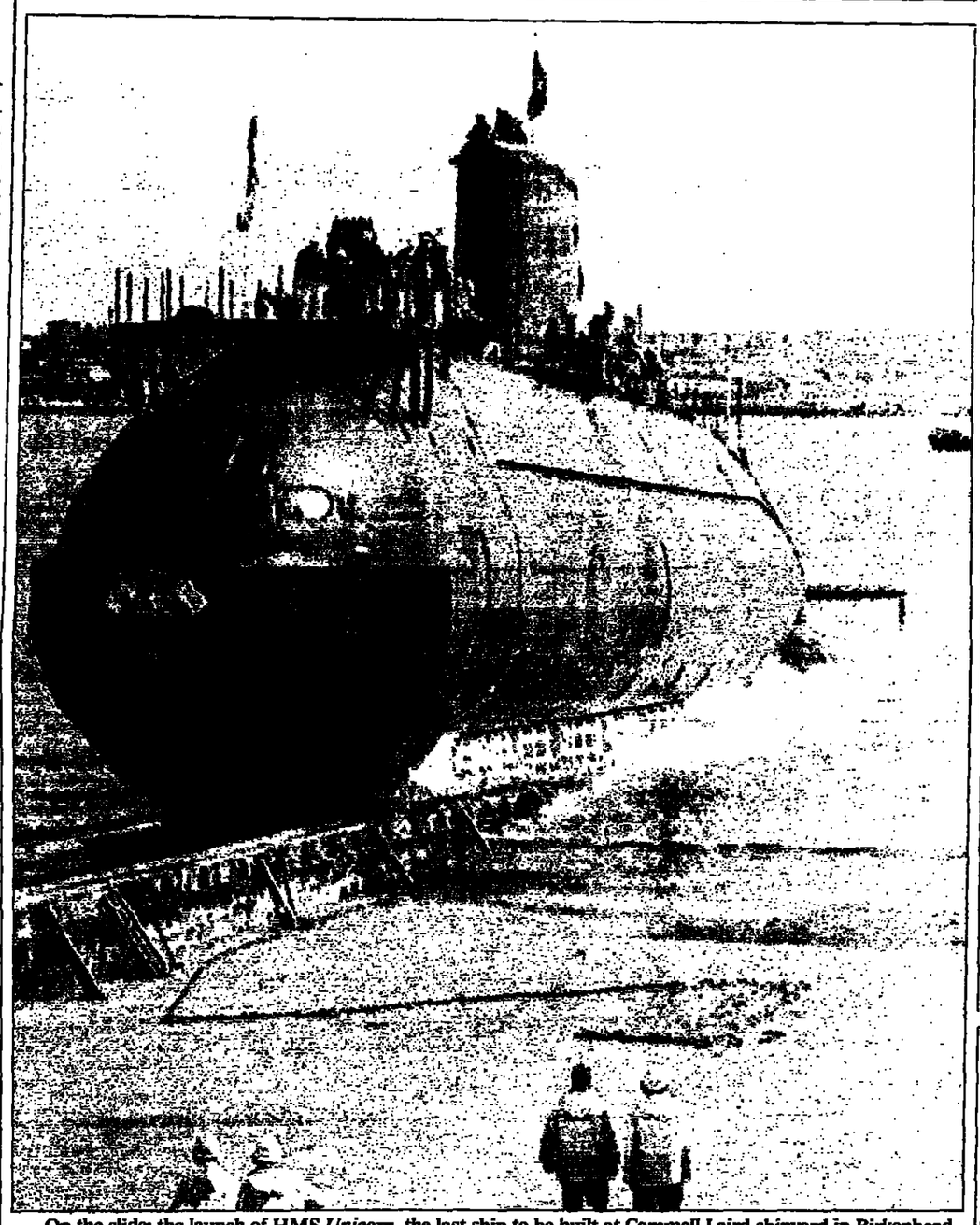
The rate cuts provided some relief for ERM members, with the franc rallying and the krone rising comfortably above its ERM floor. Austria, Belgium and Holland all cut interest rates.

However, the news from Frankfurt failed to lift the question mark over Mr Lamont's long-term future. With his Chancellor sitting beside him during question time in the Commons, Mr Major sidestepped a question over whether Mr Lamont would deliver this year's second Budget in December. In reply to Sam Galbraith (Lab, Strathkelvin and Bearsden), he said: "I can't imagine anyone other than the Chancellor of the Exchequer presenting a Budget."

Mr Lamont had earlier won backing from senior Tories who told ministers to stop "badmouthing" him. David Howell, chairman of the Commons foreign affairs select committee, said in his constituency in Guildford: "It is all very well for armchair columnists and City analysts to carp and stab when they have no conception of how difficult the job really is. But those Conservatives, including, so we are told, even some ministers, who are currently badmouthing the Chancellor, ought to be deeply ashamed of themselves."

Letters, page 15
Bundesbank surrender and Anthony Harris, page 19
Tempus, page 23

FOUR BRAND-NEW SUBMARINES FACE THE AXE



On the slide: the launch of *HMS Unicorn*, the last ship to be built at Cammell Laird shipyard in Birkenhead

More cuts needed to hit MoD target

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

FOUR brand-new £500 million diesel-powered submarines, three of them not yet in service with the Royal Navy, could be scrapped or sold under controversial proposals now before ministers.

The recommendation to eliminate conventional-powered submarines and to rely solely on nuclear-powered boats has been made as part of a wide-ranging cost-cutting exercise at the Ministry of Defence. Ministers have been forced to accept that the equipment and manpower cuts envisaged under *Options for Change* do not go far enough. Ministry sources admit there is not enough money to pay for even the slimmed down version of the three services.

The demand by the Chancellor in his Autumn Statement for cuts in the defence budget of £1.05 billion in the next two years and Wednesday's announcement reprieving two infantry battalions at a cost of £80 million a year have combined to make the dilemma even worse.

Scrapping new submarines would be unprecedented. The four Upholder class submarines were to have been the only conventionally-powered boats left under *Options*. There will also be 12 nuclear-powered boats and four Trident ballistic missile submarines. Only three of the older generation Oberon class conventional submarines remain in service and all are due to be scrapped under *Options*. Ministers now have to decide what to do with the Upholder class boats. They could try to sell them, but customers would be limited to Nato and possibly Commonwealth allies.

With demands for short and long-term cuts, ministry officials have recommend

Continued on page 2, col 5

Diary, page 14

Tony Bland to be allowed to die after law lords' ruling

BY RICHARD FORD AND PAUL WILKINSON

TONY Bland, the Hillsborough disaster victim, is to be allowed to die peacefully after yesterday's law lords' ruling that doctors can stop feeding him.

As the law lords urged Parliament to tackle the legal and moral issues raised by right-to-die cases, doctors caring for Mr Bland said he would not starve to death but would "slip away peacefully" as a result of renal failure or possibly infection.

His parents described the decision as a great relief, especially as it had been unanimous. "The decision is in the best interests of everyone. Not just in the best interests of our family, but for the nursing staff who have cared for Tony and for Tony himself," Mr Bland said in a statement to the *News of the World*.

The doctors caring for their son at the Airedale general hospital in Keighley, West Yorkshire, will decide within the next few days when to stop feeding him. They expect him to die seven to ten days after feeding ends.

Dr Jim Howe, the consultant in charge of his care, said he was relieved at the law lords' decision that it would be lawful to allow him to die, because he had realised after six months that medical care could not make him recover. He said: "It is the same as caring for a terminally ill cancer patient. We are helping him to die comfortably and peacefully. Doctors are not in the business of producing immortality."

About 1,000 other people in Britain are in a similar condition, with the cost for caring for them estimated at £20 million a year. Yesterday's decision is expected to lead to requests from relatives of some of those patients to remove their feeding tubes.

Mr Bland, aged 22, has been unconscious since his brain was deprived of oxygen nearly four years ago in the crush that claimed 95 lives at Sheffield Wednesday's Hillsborough ground.

In their judgment, the law lords said they were satisfied that what was proposed by doctors caring for Mr Bland was within the law. They said removing the feeding tube in this case could not be regarded as a positive act causing death.

The judges urged Parliament to review the law because of the problems raised by the ability to sustain life artificially



Tony Bland: victim of Hillsborough disaster

through rapid advances in medical technology. "It seems to me imperative that the moral, social and legal issues raised by this case should be considered by Parliament", Lord Browne-Wilkinson, one of the judges, said.

The ruling was attacked by anti-euthanasia groups. Dr Peggy Norris, chairman of the Alert organisation, affiliated to the international Anti-Euthanasia Task Force, said: "This decision paves the way to medical cleansing of the long-stay wards."

Historic ruling, page 3

Major stands by 'workfare'

BY NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Major last night reasserted his determination to inject an element of workfare into schemes for the unemployed after plunging Westminster and Whitehall into confusion over the government's plans to tackle rising unemployment.

After morning headlines proclaiming "No work, No dole", early Downing Street briefings suggested that Mr Major was in retreat only hours after suggesting that the unemployed should be "required" to work for their benefits. In an operation that gave every sign of policy-making on the hoof, officials first denied that workfare was on the agenda of two cabinet committees, then changed their minds later in the day.

Gillian Shephard, the employment secretary, stayed on after yesterday's cabinet meeting for urgent talks with the prime minister about how to present the new policy. Her friends denied any rift, insisting that she had discussed the speech with Mr Major before he made it.

Labour frontbenchers, backed by union leaders, denounced the proposal as irrelevant, unfair and demeaning. Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, warned the prime minister against condemning the victims of his economic policies to a compulsory ghetto of no wage and no hope. Some backbench Opposition MPs attacked the idea as little short of slave labour.

As Downing Street officials strongly denied that Mr Major was easing off under pressure, the prime minister came to the Commons to stand by his remarks and pledge that he would not shy away from considering radical options. He told MPs: "My concern is to make sure wherever possible that we keep unemployed people in touch with the world of work."

Rejected scheme, page 4
Diary, and Janet Daley, page 14
Letters, and Leading article, page 15

US ready to abandon Owen plan for Bosnia

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

OFFICIALS in Washington yesterday said privately that American resistance to the United Nations peace plan for Bosnia had so hardened that it was doubtful that the plan could be realised in anything like its present form.

America would not press the Bosnian Muslims to accept a plan which it considered flawed, a White House source said. Washington would also resist the proposed deployment of thousands of US ground troops as part of a Nato operation to enforce the plan, which prescribes Bosnia's division into ten semi-autonomous provinces. Officials predicted that all parties would violate the agreement, and that Nato forces would find themselves in a dangerous, volatile environment.

America's stance threatens to increase tensions with its European allies, who see no alternative to the plan. The administration has been struggling to develop solutions to the conflict, and yesterday promised an announcement within days, but officials have yet to agree among themselves.

US confusion, page 9
Fighting fear, page 13

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THE FAMOUS GROUSE
FINEST SCOTCH WHISKY
QUALITY IN AN AGE OF CHANGE.

MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

Spot-on questions save Chancellor for another day

Sitting yesterday beside the PM, Norman Lamont knew that he, not his boss, was the target. Labour's Sam Galbraith asked whether the Chancellor would deliver the December budget. Lamont's little Pekinese face looked up at his master, pleading for reassurance.

"I can't imagine anyone *but* the Chancellor delivering a budget," chortled Major. Resuming his seat, he patted Lamont's knee. It may have been a rather cold, tense knee.

Otherwise, it was "workfare" which dominated questions. Ministers suggested that people who can't find proper jobs, and depend on the state, might be required to place their talents at society's disposal.

Are MPs a good argument for this scheme? They have no proper jobs either. They depend on the state. In return, they place their talents at our disposal.

It might be better if they did not. A *not*workfare scheme for MPs might come as a relief. In return for their salaries, MPs might be asked *not* to make speeches, issue press releases, defend the value of the pound or engage in active politics of any sort. "Set aside" (under which farmers are paid not to farm) seems to work well in agriculture, and in Milton Keynes they have replaced real cows with concrete ones. We might try a parliamentary set-aside. MPs would be placed under house-arrest and their telephones cut off. If this worked, we might try replacing real politicians with concrete ones.

Take Gary Streeter, for instance — and I take this example because he's actually one of the more capable ones. Streeter has worked hard to become the Conservative MP for Plymouth Sutton, and his Tory association has worked hard to get him elected. His campaign will not have come cheap (raffles and bring-and-buy sales raised the funds) while the taxpayer paid for the election itself.

Now he works hard *as* the MP. What with salary, expenses, telephone and postage, the costs of answering MPs' letters and questions, and his share of the expense of running the Palace of Westminster, Mr Streeter probably costs about half a million pounds a year.

On the back, then, of much effort and expense, Gary Streeter is conveyed every week from Plymouth to Westminster.

And what does he do of a Thursday morning? He awakes, puts on a smart suit and a clean white shirt and makes his way into the Commons. After lunch, he attends prayers in the chamber and waits for the arrival of the Chancellor of the Exchequer. The country's in a mess, millions are out of work, confusion reigns as to economic policy and ministers must be held to account. The Chancellor's thinking must be probed. There is a question, an important question, which Mr Lamont must face.

And face it he will, for Miss Boothroyd allows the backbencher to catch her eye. "Mr Streeter!" she calls. He gets up. Now is his moment:

"Does my right honourable friend agree that the government's task is to put in place the right conditions for economic growth, and does he agree that that is what he has done?"

"My honourable friend is spot on," replies Mr Lamont.

This is what all that effort and expense was for. This is the end result of a backbencher's expensive education and long political training. This is the final product. And I don't mean to single Mr Streeter out. He was only obeying orders.

The average MP asks about three oral questions a year. One down, Gary, two to go.

King ready to resign today in the wake of Branson affair

BY HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

LORD King of Wartnaby, chairman of British Airways, will today tell his fellow board members that he is prepared to resign to end the most damaging and costly episode in the airline's history.

Since Richard Branson's Virgin airline won £610,000 in libel damages after allegations of "dirty tricks" by BA, Lord King, 75, has been under intense pressure to step down to show that BA is prepared to change its operating method and its public image.

In what is certain to be an emotional board meeting at the airline's central London headquarters, Lord King will recommend that Sir Colin Marshall, BA's chief executive, be appointed chairman and that Robert Ayling, the commercial and operations director, become managing director. However, some major shareholders have told the company that they have strong doubts about the wisdom of appointing Sir Colin to the roles of both chairman and chief executive. Last week they told Mr Derek Stevens, BA finance director, that there was a "need for checks and balances on the board".

Despite earlier objections to the changes raised by some members of the ten-man board, it is now likely that Lord King's resignation will be accepted unanimously. He will probably be asked to become president for life.

The board is also likely to be told that David Burnside, the director of public affairs, will be leaving at the same time as Lord King, with whom he has formed a close working relationship. Sir Colin last week held a one-and-a-half hour meeting with Mr Branson to make it clear that the dispute with Virgin is at an end.



Lord King: emotional board meeting likely

BA is keen to put the episode behind it and restore its international reputation at a time when it is pursuing its ambition to become a global airline. It is trying to establish a partnership with US Air, the sixth largest carrier in America, which would be further damaged if Mr Branson took any more legal action. The "big three" US airlines — American, Delta and United — oppose any deal and are asking the Clinton administration to declare a moratorium on foreign investments in American carriers.

Lord King is said by those close to him to be "shattered" by the events of the past few weeks. They have marred the end of an 11-year tenure which saw him turn the airline round from a massive state-owned loss maker into the world's most profitable.

He had, anyway, been planning to retire in July, but the affairand increasing pressure from city institutions and commentators have forced him to advance his plans.



Recovering: the former hunter Georgie Girl with its owner, Kate Buckett

Straw calls for Scandanavian style constitutional monarchy

BY A STAFF REPORTER

THE royal family was "deeply decadent", Jack Straw, the shadow environment secretary, said yesterday.

Mr Straw provoked a rebuff from Buckingham Palace last month when he compared royalty to a soap opera with no serious future, adding that Britain could become a republic unless the royal family changed its ways. The Labour party said then Mr Straw was expressing a personal view.

Yesterday he returned to the subject by telling the left-wing newspaper *Tribune* that he formed a view that Britain needed a Scandanavian-style constitutional monarchy after reading Andrew Morton's book *Diana: Her True Story*.

"It hadn't occurred to me before that the royals were at the apex of a separate society of extremely rich people," he told the newspaper.

Claiming that he had received as many supportive letters as critical ones since he spoke about the royal family last month, he added that the biography of the Princess of Wales was a "remarkably subversive document that exposes a deeply decadent and detached system for which we are all paying".

Mr Straw's latest intervention came a day after John Major said that some of Britain's deepest values, including the monarchy, were being undermined. He told a Tory audience at London's Carlton Club that he sensed "a growing fear that we may lose so much that is precious to this country", emphasising a need for an "unbroken chain of community linking the monarchy to the humblest household".

☐ An unnamed middle-aged man placed bets totalling £8,000 at two branches of William Hill in north London yesterday on the monarchy being abolished by January 1, 2000. The man, who will pick up £146,000, including stake money, if the monarchy has ceased to exist by then, took out bets of £1,000 at 33-1, £3,500 at 20-1 and a further £3,500 at 10-1.

Pregnant horse is attacked

BY LIN JENKINS

A BROOD mare due to foal in two months has become the latest victim in a series of sexual attacks on horses in southern England during the past 18 months.

Georgie Girl, a 16-hand former hunter, was grazing in a field with another horse at Upham near Fareham, Hampshire, when it was assaulted. Police working on Operation Mountbattan, named after a horse that died during an attack, have added the incident to 27 others in the county under investigation.

The mare was found bleeding by its groom, Carol Alford, when she went to feed the horses. Kate Buckett, its owner, said: "She noticed Georgie was bleeding from her hindquarters and her first reaction was that she was going to miscarry. She could not see evidence of any cut. It was only when the vet came that he found she had internal wounds and he was convinced it was something she could not have done to herself."

Mrs Buckett, 38, said she was appalled by the crime. "I felt absolutely devastated. It is just disgusting. I cannot believe someone could be this deviant."

The mare had been in the field for four days. Mrs Buckett thought the field, overlooked by cottages, would be safe. "You would find it hard to find a safer place to keep your horses."

Hampshire police said the attack was of a sexual nature and was probably carried out in daylight on Wednesday, when there was fog. They want to interview a man and woman seen in a black BMW in the area. The 12-strong Operation Mountbatten team, based at Alton, has issued descriptions of two different people in relation to earlier attacks.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Student kills himself with electrocution kit

A Cambridge University student who was a member of the Footlights theatre group killed himself with a home-made time lapse electrocution kit, an inquest was told yesterday.

Sam Butterell, 20, using the expertise he learnt as a lighting technician with the Footlights, attached live and neutral wires to his chest and plugged them into a wall socket via a battery timer before going to sleep on November 25 last year. His body was found at 11pm the next day after he failed to appear for a performance of the Footlights pantomime, *Peter Pan*. The timer had been set for 15 hours earlier at 8am.

The Queens' College philosophy student from Barnard Castle, co. Durham, was said by a pyschiatrist to be exhausted from his work with the theatre group and worried about his studying and meagre student grant. Dr Jeanne Arno, a consultant pathologist, said he died from acute heart failure consistent with electrocution. John Smith, the Cambridge coroner, recorded an open verdict.

Drinkers disciplined

Employers are adopting a stricter attitude toward alcohol at work, according to a study by Alcohol Concern. Of 81 organisations surveyed, two out of five had dismissed employees for being drunk on company premises or for similar offences. Almost three-quarters disciplined problem drinkers who refused counselling.

Gallery wins award

The architect Sir Norman Foster achieved a rare double last night when his new Sackler Galleries at the Royal Academy, London, were named 1992 Building of the Year by the Royal Institute of British Architects. The galleries have already received the Royal Fine Art Commission/Sunday Times Building of the Year Award for 1992.

IRA admits rail bombs

The IRA yesterday said that it planted the two bombs which disrupted rail services in London on Wednesday. It also threatened further attacks in Britain. The first explosion was on the 9.49am Victoria to Ramsgate train at Kent House station, south London. The second was at 3.29pm at South Kensington underground station, west London.

Woman shoots herself

A businesswoman has killed herself with a gunshot to her head. Christine Nasr, of East Sheen, Surrey, separated and with a daughter aged six, had earlier telephoned a relative and threatened to commit suicide, police said yesterday. Her body was found at her home on Wednesday. She ran a boutique in central London.

Major rules out cash for truck firm

BY PHILIP WEBSTER
CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Major yesterday ruled out government financial help for Leyland DAF trucks.

In an altercation with John Smith, the Labour leader, he said he was not prepared to spend taxpayers' money to provide working capital to companies suffering difficulties. Many needed working capital from time to time and it was not realistic to expect the government to provide it.

Mr Smith had said the company could not be allowed to collapse. He asked Mr Major to undertake that if the Dutch and Belgian governments rescued their part of the firm the British government should do the same for Leyland DAF.

Mr Major said receivers had made clear at least parts of the company could be saved as "a commercially viable business, without unnecessary state handouts. I believe that is the way to proceed."

Pressed again by the Labour leader, Mr Major said Mr Smith was asking to try the failed approach of Labour governments.

Diary, page 14
Lone fight, and Anthony Harris, page 19



All sizes are approximate and not to scale. Merchandise subject to availability.

Four brand-new submarines face the axe

Continued from page 1

ed equipment cancellations because they provide instant savings. If Malcolm Rifkind, the defence secretary, approves the cuts, the government's promise to create "smaller but better" armed forces for the 1990s could be put in doubt.

As if to counter the criticism that will come from Conservative backbenchers, the defence ministry yesterday announced that the army is to get a new attack helicopter which could cost £2 billion. However, the recommended cuts in equipment arising from the ministry's annual long-term costings exercise, recently completed, will have such an impact on the defence procurement programme that the three services are now bracing themselves for some harsh decisions by ministers later this year.

Elimination of the four Upholder class submarines which were built for £500 million would remove a capability which has always been viewed as vital in the past. Although the navy would prefer to keep nuclear boats because of their long endurance capability, the quieter diesel-powered submarines can operate in shallow waters.

HMS *Upholder*, the first of the class, was launched in December 1990 and came into service the same year. HMS *Unseen* and HMS *Ursula*, built at Cammel Laird, were handed over to the navy last year. The fourth, HMS *Unicorn*, also built at Cammel Laird, is due to go on sea trials in the next few weeks.

Other cuts being considered by ministers cover a whole range of equipment for the three services. The RAF could lose a Tornado F3 squadron but the future of the European Fighter Aircraft seems assured. The navy's Trident submarine programme is also immune from cuts but the number of frigates and destroyers could drop from the *Options* target of "around 40" to 35. Several minesweepers could also go. The three aircraft carriers are unlikely to be affected, although the proposed £170 million helicopter carrier for the Royal Marines seems doomed.

☐ **Atomic contract:** An Anglo-American consortium has won the contract to run the atomic weapons establishments, following the government's decision to hand management of the sites to private contractors. The consortium, consisting of Hunting, a British defence company, Brown and Root, a subsidiary of a Texas conglomerate, and the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority, will manage the sites at Aldermaston and Burghfield in Berkshire, at Foulness in Essex, and Cardiff from April 1.

Diary, page 14

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Historic ruling will allow Hillsborough victim to die but similar cases must still go to the courts

Doctors given right to end living death

BY RICHARD FORD
HOME CORRESPONDENT

■ In the ruling on Tony Bland, a crucial distinction was made between withdrawing treatment and actively ending a life

DOCTORS caring for Tony Bland, victim of the Hillsborough disaster, can stop feeding him and allow him to die, the House of Lords ruled yesterday in an historic judgment.

The five law lords unanimously upheld the Court of Appeal's ruling that it would be lawful for medical staff to stop feeding Mr Bland, although Lord Mustill expressed profound misgivings about almost every aspect of the case. They said that, for the foreseeable future, all other such cases would have to come to the courts before doctors could act.

The judges, giving the first right-to-die judgment, said Mr Bland would not benefit from having his life prolonged as his condition was no more than a living death, and that further treatment would be futile. But they said there was a crucial distinction between withdrawing supportive treatment that kept a patient alive and taking positive action, such as administering a lethal injection, with the intention of ending life. The latter remained murder.

In delivering their judgment, they acknowledged that Mr Bland's life had been sustained only by the dedication of medical staff at Airedale general hospital near Keighley, West Yorkshire. Mr Bland's parents, Barbara and Allan, supported the doctors' view that nothing could be done for their son, who was condemned to a persistent vegetative state when he was crushed during an FA cup semi-final at Sheffield Wednesday's ground in April 1989. Ninety-five people died.

The distress of his parents was acknowledged by Lord Mustill, who referred to the "pitiful state" of Mr Bland since he suffered the severe chest injury that led to brain damage.

The period leading up to his death would be very stressful for nursing staff, who would have to act in a way contrary to all their instincts and training, Lord Mustill said. "Acknowledging this, I hope that the nurses will accept, as I believe, that sadly it is for the best."

He and Lords Keith of Kinkel, Goff of Chieveley, Lowry and Browne-Wilkinson dismissed the appeal by David Venables, the Official Solicitor, who was representing Mr Bland's interests. He had opposed the application by Airedale NHS Trust, supported by Mr Bland's parents, to stop feeding the soccer fan. Mr Venables argued that for a doctor to bring about the death of a patient by deliberately depriving him of food would amount to murder.

The key issue was whether the tube-feeding ought to be considered a medical treatment. Lord Goff said consideration must be taken of the whole regime, including the artificial feeding, which kept Mr Bland alive.

"That regime amounts to medical treatment and care, and it is incorrect to direct attention exclusively to the fact that nourishment is provided," he said.

Lord Browne-Wilkinson said that removing the feeding tube could not be regarded as an act causing death. It was reasonable for the doctors to conclude that there was no benefit to Mr Bland in continuing the invasive medical procedures necessary to sustain life. "Having so concluded, they are neither entitled nor under a duty to continue such medical care. Therefore, they will not be guilty of murder if they discontinue such care," he said.

Peaceful end, page 1
Law Report, page 8

CHRIS HARRIS



Dr Jim Howe, responsible for Tony Bland's treatment, at the hospital yesterday

Judgment affects 1,000 patients

BY JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

AS MANY as 1,000 patients in persistent vegetative state could be affected by the judgment. Doctors said yesterday, however, that there was unlikely to be a flood of requests from relatives for feeding tubes to be removed.

Doctors and carers are divided on the decision. Pro-life groups said that pressure could be brought on relatives by hospitals because of the cost of caring for such patients, estimated at £20 million a year. Tony Bland's care costs £2,100 a week. Keith Davies, of Life, said the ruling was a monstrous legal error that had more to do with economics than medical care. "Tony Bland has been delivered into the jaws of the NHS's cost cutting piranhas," he said.

Dr Keith Andrews, medical director of the Royal Hospital and Home, Putney, southwest London, which specialises in the care of patients in persistent vegetative state, said doctors were too negative about what could be achieved by such patients because few had enough experience and opportunities for rehabilitation were rare. "You have got to give patients the chance to live before you give them the chance to die." The Royal College of Nursing said the time between removing the feeding tube and death, expected to be 10 to 14 days, would be extremely difficult for nurses.

The mother of a 23-year-old man injured in a car accident six years ago said there had been disagreement among his doctors about whether he was in persistent vegetative state. Anne Rogers said her son James, whom she cares for at home, was completely incapacitated but could communicate through arm movements and the way he looked. "He means a great deal to his family and friends," she said. "I am worried that pressure will be put on other families as a result of this judgment."

American courts have agreed to the withdrawal of food and water in about 80 similar cases. Bryan Jennett, professor of neurosurgery at Glasgow University, said the ruling would be reassuring to British doctors who had been responding to public demands to moderate life-saving measures when the outcome looked poor. He questioned the need for a change in the law, saying it only needed to be clarified.

He said doctors made decisions for the benefit of patients, not economics, but the ruling showed there was no legal duty to provide useless treatment and it would "therefore not be right to demand useless treatment".

The British Medical Association said occasional reports of patients recovering showed the importance of careful diagnosis. The association backs the idea of a card that could be carried by people who did not want to be kept alive if there was no hope of recovery.

Father prepares for last days

BY PAUL WILKINSON

TONY Bland's death in the next few days will end a harrowing routine for his parents that has lasted almost four years. Every day, since all normal life was crushed out of him against the Hillsborough terrace rails, Allan and Barbara Bland have visited his bedside in the hope of glimpsing a flicker of recognition in his eyes.

The absence of any such response and the growing knowledge that his physical condition is declining have taken their toll on the couple. Mr Bland is 57 and his wife is 52. Doctors at Airedale hospital in Keighley, West Yorkshire, have recently warned the Blands several times about the enormous strain they have endured because of their son's condition and the long-running court action.

Counselling for families of the 95 victims was concentrated on Liverpool. Help for the Blands came from a local social worker, but the couple accept that he had enough on his hands dealing with a casebook of 40 juveniles.

Their son was transferred from Sheffield to Airedale hospital to make visiting easy for the Blands, who live four miles away. From the beginning they did anything that might provoke a reaction: talk of the day's events, play his favourite music, and even tune into soccer on the television.

There have been visits from some of the Liverpool players that he idolised and who played at Hillsborough on the day of the disaster. There have been scores of cards from wellwishers.

Today, autographed shirts from Liverpool, Sheffield Wednesday and the England under-21 side hang at the foot of his bed. The cream walls are adorned with family pictures. Over his head is a smiling picture of a toddler called Daniel, a nephew he will never see.

His parents still hold his hand and tell news of the family and the outside world, but they have accepted that even when his eyes roll open he can see nothing. When they are not there, nurses regularly attempt conversation. Every two hours they turn his immobile body in the bed, looking for sores or signs of the infections that have twice nearly claimed his life. A constant check is kept on the machine that keeps him alive. A tube through his nose feeds liquid nutrients into his body. Wires monitor numerous bodily functions.

Soon they will stop. Tony Bland does not know it but his father has promised to be there at the end.

Polar duo defy pain barrier and vow to complete trek

BY IAN MURRAY

FROST-BITTEN, hungry and lame, the two British explorers striving to be the first to cross Antarctica unsupported are within a week of their goal and determined to press on.

Over the crackling VHF radio that is now their only link with the outside world, Sir Ranulph Fiennes and Dr Michael Stroud said yesterday that they would not give up, even though they are nearing exhaustion and all their equipment is wearing out after 87 days of constant hard use in sub-zero weather. Morag Howell, the expedition co-ordinator, said yesterday: "It is an amazing feat of human endurance and their pain barriers must be incredibly high to continue."

Speaking from Chile, where she is now waiting anxiously for their journey to end, she said that both men were suffering from malnutrition and were emaciated. Sir Ranulph, 48, had an infected foot caused by a blister turning septic and was suffering from frost-bite in both feet. Dr Stroud, 37, had frost-bitten hands.

"I am sure they would not be going on if they were in danger of dying," said Mrs Howell, who has worked on previous polar expeditions with the two men. She said that in the last two days the antenna on the beacon that gave a positional fix had broken. They were left with the VHF radio and a small homing device, which would help a search party in an emergency.

Dr Stroud's sled broke in two when he fell down a crevasse ten days after the expedition began and it was now held together by rope. They had only two ski poles between them, one without a basket. "Everything is falling apart," Mrs Howell said. "You can imagine what state their clothes are in after wearing them for three months."

In spite of the difficulties, including winds gusting at 50mph, the pair are averaging 20 miles a day down the blue ice of the Beardmore Glacier on the last, but most difficult, stretch of their 1,300-mile journey.

They are 32 miles from breaking an 86-year record for the longest unsupported polar trip and 80 miles from reaching the bottom of the glacier and completing the first such trans-Antarctic journey. Since they set out on November 9, they have lost only one day's travel, which was after Dr Stroud's sled broke. They stopped off briefly for a cup of tea to celebrate reaching the South Pole.

Mrs Howell said the pair had until February 17 to finish the journey, when the last ship had to leave to escape being trapped by ice.

Lady Fiennes, who is being kept up to date with progress at her farm in Exmoor, said she was nervous but sure that if the two men became too ill they would stop.

The expedition hopes to raise £2 million for the Multiple Sclerosis Society.

Photograph, page 18



WITH THE TIMES TOMORROW

The Saturday Review

Rebel, rebel: Matthew Parris on Westminster's bulldogs

Nick Cage: wild at heart to Hollywood straight man

Brian Masters: an intimate relationship with horror

Changing shape: Alice Thomson on forces pin-ups

AND

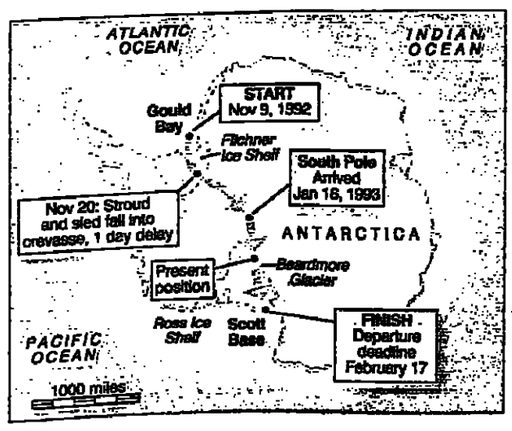
Clement Freud enjoys David Puttnam's gut feelings

Weekend Times

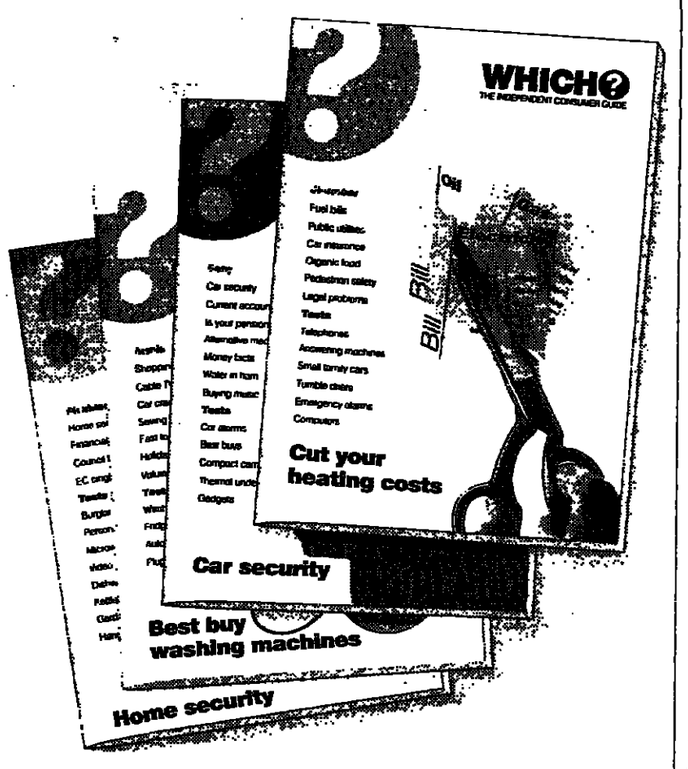
Down with heritage: the conservation muddle

AND

Lynne Truss on sex and meat



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WHICH? THE INDEPENDENT CONSUMER GUIDE

Tories return to scheme rejected under Thatcher

Growth in jobless forces workfare back on agenda

BY PHILIP BASSETT
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

■ The government is backing away from *workfare at a time when President* Clinton is about to make it one of his key policies

JOHN Major's suggestion that the unemployed might *work for their benefits has* raised an issue that has again been lurking around Whitehall as unemployment heads inexorably towards three million: *workfare.*

In light of the controversy aroused by the prime minister's speech to the Carlton Club on Wednesday, his aides *attempted yesterday to suggest* that he had been misinterpreted and had not meant any programme along the lines of American schemes. But his words — "I increasingly wonder whether paying unemployment benefit without offering or requiring any activity in return serves unemployed people or society well" — are the basis of workfare in *the United States: that the* unemployed carry out community work for their benefit, or do not get any.

The Conservatives have been here before. *In the late* 1980s, Margaret Thatcher and Nigel Lawson, then prime minister and Chancellor, were in favour of introducing workfare but an alliance of the employment and trade and *industry secretaries headed* them off. Sir Norman Fowler, then employment secretary, even went gingerly on a trip to America to look at workfare schemes — or at least the soft edge of them, as operated in liberal states such as Massachusetts.

What ministers have chosen *not to see is the hard edge:* the compulsory schemes that illustrate starkly why, politically, "workfare" is a dirty word. In one programme operating in *New York's Lower East Side,* the unpleasantness is palpable as every hour about 200 people, most of them black, are asked a straight question on working or losing benefit. Depending on their answers, they are herded into chest-high, fenced pens to await their fate. Questioned about the system, they mostly reply in expletives.

The evidence that workfare schemes find people jobs is limited. According to a two-year study by Louis Burghes, a senior researcher with the UK *Family Policy Studies Centre,* American research showed only small employment gains in workfare states.

President Clinton cites the achievement of Project Success, the workfare scheme he *operated as governor of* Arkansas, which he claims, at its peak, helped almost 10,000 people to find work in one year. He is expected to name a *taskforce next week to reform* America's welfare programmes with workfare as a specific aim. The day before Mr Major's statement, Mr Clinton said that there had to be "a certain time beyond which people don't draw a cheque for doing nothing".

Though Labour politicians *and some trade union leaders* railed against Mr Major's suggestion yesterday, this Clinton "tough love", as his advisers call it, is prompting modernisers in the Labour party to consider workfare seriously. In his speeches in Durham this week, Frank Field, Labour MP for Birkenhead, has edged towards it, as has David Blunkett, the front-bench health spokesman.

Proposals from the pressure group Full Employment UK carefully eschew the word "workfare" but talk, Clinton-style, of "reciprocal responsibility". They have been closely examined by employment department officials.

Though proposing workfare in Britain has long been espoused of the political right, Clinton-influenced left-wingers are able to draw on impeccable references to support their interest. The 1942 report by Sir William Beveridge, which was the foundation of the modern welfare state, never saw indefinite benefit as part of the optimum welfare system and saw a direct connection between work and benefits.

"Men and women in receipt of unemployment benefit cannot be allowed to hold out indefinitely for work of the type to which they are used," he said. "Men and women who have been unemployed for a certain period should be required as a condition of continued benefit to attend a work or training centre."

Sweden, throughout the recent period when it was regarded by many on the British left as a social model, operates *a system under which no cash* benefits are available to anyone under 20 unless they accept work or training. Switzerland cuts all unemployment benefits after eight months and bans them for anyone under 20.

The Conservative government has rejected workfare before, and may do so again, because its associated problems are real. Though there are no accurate public costings of a British programme, some rough estimates suggest that it could run to £18 billion. At a time when projected public borrowing is running at £44 billion, the Treasury is likely to balk at the cost.

Workfare confusion, page 1
Janet Daley and Diary, page 14
Leading article, page 15

JOHN MANNING



John Sharman, unemployed, of south London, supported workfare yesterday

First test will be far cry from early vision

BY OUR INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

BRITAIN'S first workfare-style *scheme is due to be* tested later this year in the constituency of the Conservative MP who has long proposed that Britain should adopt workfare.

For more than a decade, Ralph Howell, MP for Norfolk North, has doggedly pursued radical alternatives to unemployment. *He will see* his persistance pay off when *the employment* department pilots a version of his workfare proposal, produced under the auspices of the Adam Smith Institute, the *right-wing think-tank.* The scheme should be in place by April.

Talks on setting up the pilot have been under way for some time between Mr Howell and his supporters, employment *department* officials and Michael Forsyth, the employment minister, who is understood to be in favour of workfare, though aware of its *practical difficulties.*

The scheme was originally going to offer work that

TRIAL RUN

would help *the local community* and develop skills among the 18-24 age group. It will now be available to all unemployment claimants in the area who have been out of work for six months or more, *regardless of age.* The constituency has 3,157 jobless. The unemployment rate for Norfolk is 8.9 per cent, compared with a national rate of 10.5 per cent.

Supporters of workfare may not see *the pilot as a worth*while test, because it is unlikely to contain any element of compulsion and will pay present benefit levels, plus £10 a week. That is a far cry from Mr Howell's proposals *which, in return for the end*ing of unemployment benefit, offer work for a tax-free wage of £100 for a 40-hour week, with entitlement to housing or family benefit beyond that level. This payment would be *higher than the normal* unemployment benefit.

Mr Howell's scheme would continue to attract any due sickness and disability benefits, unlike workfare schemes in the United States.

As the prime minister said yesterday, Britain already has some elements of American workfare-style compulsion, principally the Restart programme, under which people unemployed for two years (to be changed in April to one year) are required to go *through an interview course.* Failure to attend, or leaving early, can lead to a reduction in benefit.



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White House tries carrot with the stick

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

WORKFARE has wide support in Congress and the White House, but President Clinton has not so far drafted specific legislation. Instead, he has promised to form a task force within the next few days to prepare a plan to put to Congress within six months.

Mr Clinton wants to ensure that welfare becomes "a second chance, not a way of life". He contends that most of the five million American families on welfare are "aching for the chance to move from dependence to dignity".

He told America's governors this week that, after training, people must be required to take a job in the private sector or in public service, such as community work. "There must be a certain time beyond which people don't draw a cheque for doing nothing when they can do something," he said. Mothers with infants would be excluded. The Clinton plan includes a carrot with the stick: poor *people with jobs will get* increased tax credits.

The president's determination to reduce the welfare rolls is in keeping with his campaign promise to be a "new kind of Democrat". *Conservatives say his views put* him slightly to the right of President Reagan, who tried

CLINTON VIEW

to launch a workfare scheme in the 1980s. Left-wing and civil-rights groups worry that the element of compulsion in the plan could force poor people into menial jobs or make-work tasks.

Presidential aides prefer to make comparisons with President Roosevelt's Works Progress Administration, which helped to ease unemployment in the Depression.

ARGUMENTS FOR AND AGAINST

In favour

People who are able to support themselves should do so

Workfare tests need, deterring those who really do not *need benefit from claiming it*

Can reduce welfare costs

Maintains an attachment to the jobs market

Provides socially useful public work

Against

Society should support those who cannot support themselves

Workfare will impose work which is often inappropriate to individual unemployed people

Workfare stigmatises people *and runs contrary to notions of* universal benefit

Exploits the unemployed by using them as cheap labour, and displaces the employed out of jobs

Difficult to implement, politically *hard to stomach — for* any government.



Howell: persistent advocate of workfare

VAT levy 'would shut papers'

BY ROBIN YOUNG

PUTTING value-added tax on newspapers would close a *fifth of Britain's* regional titles, lead to nearly 2,500 job losses, and raise only half the £135 million the Treasury expects, according to a report published yesterday.

The survey was prepared for the *Newspaper Society by* Price Waterhouse, the accountants and management consultants, in the knowledge that VAT on books, newspapers *and magazines is being* considered as one way of reducing the public sector borrowing requirement in the budget.

The Price Waterhouse *study, based on data from 255* independently selected titles, is being circulated to MPs as part of the Newspaper Society's campaign against VAT on regional and local newspapers.

Dugal Nisbet-Smith, the director of the Newspaper Society, said yesterday: "The potential damage to *newspapers'* editorial coverage of local issues would be irreversible. This would be a tax on knowledge, hitting at the heart of the community."

Courts to act against cheap Oxford bars

BY JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

MAGISTRATES *in Oxford are threatening to clamp* down on college bars that give students access to cheap late-night drinking.

The bars are not subject to *the same licensing laws as the* city's pubs. They operate through an informal arrangement, which has not been revised since 1978.

John Kemp, chairman of the licensing magistrates, said his committee wanted to know why the university was not subject to the same *constraints as the* rest of the population. Magistrates had to be sure that the colleges' regulations were not contributing to over-indulgence.

Chief Supt David Lindley, head of Oxford police, said: "There isn't *the same supervi*sion as at normal licensed premises, and the drink is cheap. Excessive drinking doesn't always cause problems but on Saturday *night* there are a lot of intoxicated students staggering around in *High Street and Commarket* Street."

He said that the death *from* a drink and drugs cocktail in 1986 of the cabinet minister's daughter Olivia Channon, a *student at Christ Church, had not been forgotten.*

The university has started its own investigation into drinking among students. Colleges are to discuss a report by a working party of the student health committee, which offers guidelines for the running of their bars.

The university said there was concern about the dangers of alcohol, but colleges had *firm rules governing* bars. Only college members were allowed to buy drinks, and only half opened at lunchtimes, giving the rest shorter *opening hours than pubs.*

Oriel College has reorganised its bar arrangements, taking the management out of the hands of the junior common room and appointing a professional manager. Students pay for drinks on an account, which allows the college to monitor *their consumption.*

Alcohol problems among Oxford's youth were aired in a Central Television documentary last night, when the *father of a 16-year-old girl* who died after a drinking session said his daughter's friends were still at risk.

هكذا من الأصل

هكذا من الاصل

Cinema head denies illegal screening of Kubrick film

BY NICHOLAS WATT

THE film director Stanley Kubrick employs "spies" to monitor illegal screenings of his cult film *A Clockwork Orange*, a court was told yesterday.

Jane Giles is accused of illegally screening the film at La Scala cinema in King's Cross, London, knowing that the director had banned it from being shown in Britain. The cinema deliberately billed the film as a "surprise" last April because it was flouting the law, it was alleged at Wells Street Magistrates' Court.

A Clockwork Orange, the futuristic story of a 15-year-old boy with a taste for rape and murder, was withdrawn in 1973 on the orders of Kubrick after it was blamed for a series of violent attacks. Although it is still shown on the Continent and in America, La Scala's projectionist at the time of the screening said Kubrick was determined to maintain the ban in Britain. Jeremy Cousans told the court: "Everyone knows that Kubrick has spies out every day to keep an eye on the copyright."

Ms Giles, La Scala's programme manager at the time, denies breaching the film's copyright, which is held by Warner Brothers. She claims that she was unaware of the ban.

Linda Strudwick QC, counsel for the Federation Against Copyright Theft (Fact), which brought the prosecution, said the film was so notorious it was inconceivable that Ms Giles did not know about the ban. "It is a well-known film ... because it has not been shown since 1974," she said.

Ms Giles told an investigating officer from Fact that she showed the film after it was supplied by a man called Jean Marc Brenez. Miss Strudwick said: "Ms Giles never met him. He never gave any indication of his rights to the film and Ms Giles carried out no checks to see if La Scala could show the film. It is rather analagous to the buying of stolen goods from a mythical man in the pub."

Mr Cousans, who now works for Warner Brothers, told the court that Ms Giles knew it was illegal to screen *A Clockwork Orange*. "The week before the screening, we discussed the implications of screening it and that Kubrick's people might hear that it was being screened," he said. "We all knew that it was not supposed to be shown. We all knew it was banned by Kubrick."

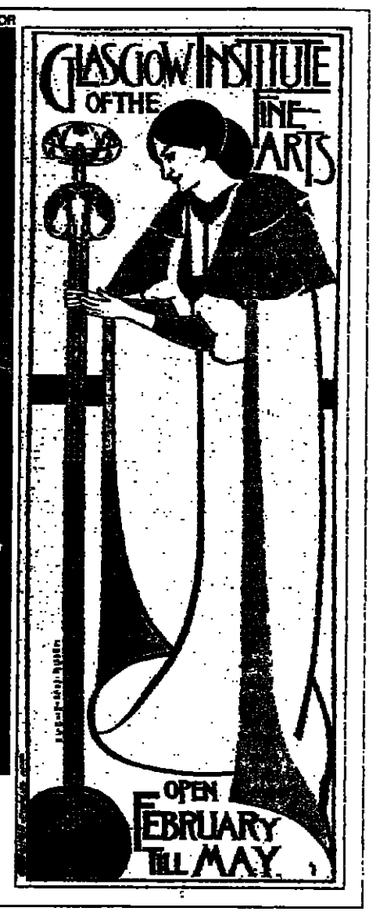
Mr Cousans alleged that La Scala had screened the film two or three years before and that it was stored in the cinema. The film had been provided by one of La Scala's regular suppliers, Joe McAllister. Mr Cousans also alleged that when Ms Giles heard he was going to work for Warner, she said she was worried that the screening might jeopardise his new job.

The hearing was adjourned until March.



PETER TREVINOR

Pick of the pictures: a record was set for a British poster sale in London yesterday (Sarah Jane Checkland writes). An anonymous overseas buyer paid £68,200 for a somewhat battered example by Charles Rennie Mackintosh (1868-1928) of a lithograph, right, in three colours — black, red and green — advertising the 1895 exhibition of contemporary art at the Glasgow Institute of the Fine Arts, an annual exhibition that continues to this day. The poster, sold at Christie's *art nouveau* sale, reflected Mackintosh's popularity by shattering the previous record of £7,700 paid in 1988 for an early 1900s poster that advertised the LNER railway company.



Cheap loans drive up car sales again

BY KEVIN EASON, MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

FALLING interest rates are continuing to bolster new car sales, providing the government with evidence that the economy is turning the corner.

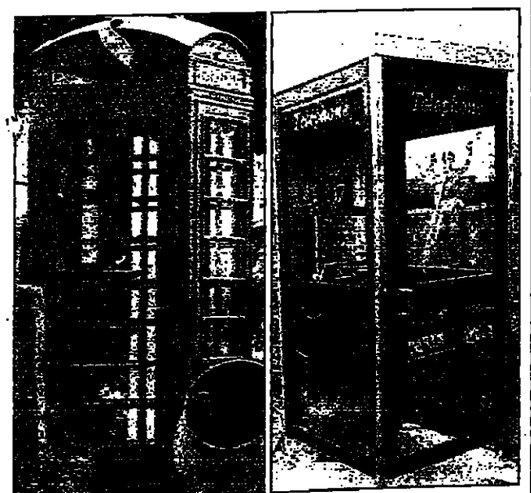
Sales in January were 7.3 per cent up on January 1992, the fourth successive month in which they were better than the corresponding period a year ago. New car registrations have risen in eight of the ten months since last April, when 29 months of continuous decline was ended.

January's performance was driven by big increases for the three French manufacturers, Renault, Citroen, and Peugeot, which accounted for 20 per cent of new car sales between them, almost as much as Ford, Britain's biggest domestic manufacturer.

Sir Hal Miller, chief executive of the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, said: "The figures confirm the trend established during the second half of last year." But he warned Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, that he must avoid "trampling on the green shoots" and halting the recovery with tax increases.

The Retail Motor Industry Federation, which represents 12,000 dealers, says sales could recover to 1.67 million this year after reaching 1.593 million in 1992. There were 164,939 new cars registered last month, compared with 153,682 in January last year and 163,534 in January 1991.

Citroen's sales increase gave the company a 6.4 per cent share of the market and pushed it into fifth position behind Ford, Vauxhall, Rover and Peugeot. The combined PSA Peugeot-Citroen company now holds 14.6 per cent of the market, greater than Rover's 13.6 per cent for January and nudging Vauxhall, with 16.8 per cent. Ford still leads, but with a substantially reduced market share — down from 25.1 per cent to 21.7 per cent.



Ringing the changes: the old box, left, and the new

BT fined £3,000 for moving listed kiosk

BRITISH Telecom was fined £3,000 yesterday for demolishing a listed telephone kiosk.

The green jubilee box designed by Sir Gilbert Scott was grade II listed in 1990 and thought to be one of five in the country. It stood at Fangdale Beck, North Yorkshire, for 56 years until BT workmen replaced it with a modern silver kiosk last May.

After complaints from residents and the National Parks committee, North Yorkshire County Council took out a private prosecution against BT, which yesterday admitted demolishing a listed building.

BT had told the committee that the kiosk was so badly vandalised it was dangerous to use and the company planned to move it, Northallerton maistrates were told.

The council told BT it needed permission but a month later workmen turned up unexpectedly and trundled away with it. The council rang BT and told the company it had broken the law but instead of returning the old box, BT replaced it with what locals call a shower cubicle, the court was told.

The council is insisting that BT repairs and returns the green kiosk.



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Bombers' prison wedding bridges divide in Ulster

By Edward Gorman
Ireland Correspondent

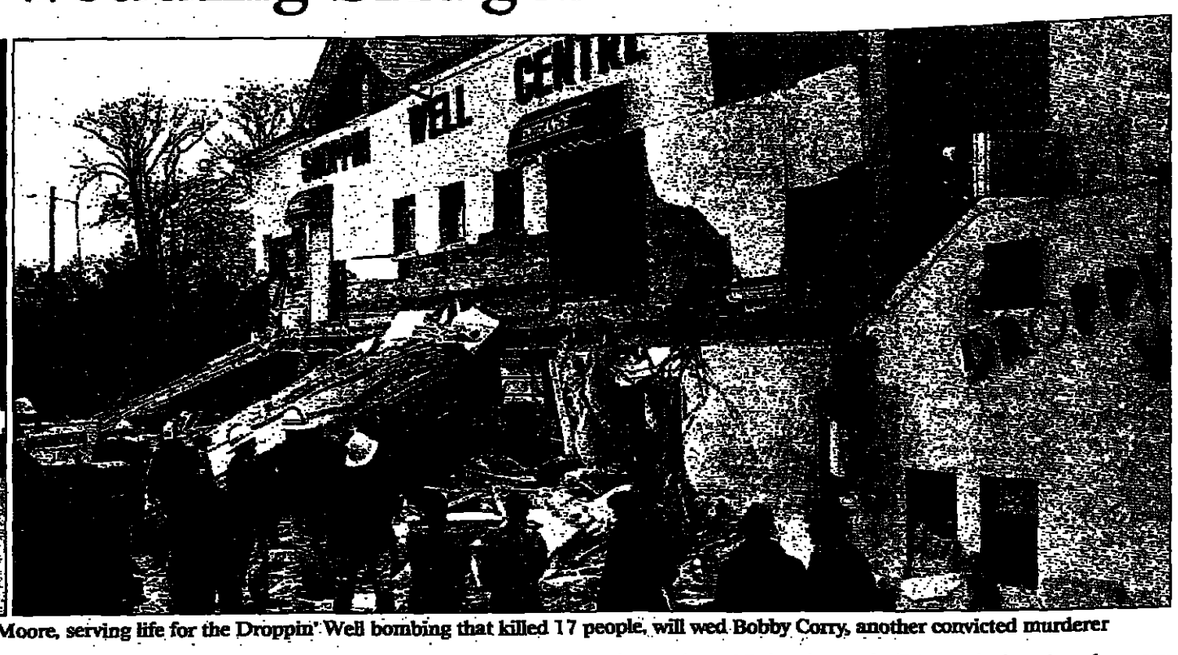
A ROMAN Catholic woman and a Protestant man, both serving life sentences for terrorist murders, are to marry next month in the first prison wedding to bridge the sectarian divide in Northern Ireland.

The Northern Ireland Office confirmed yesterday that Anna Moore, 46, and Bobby Corry, 43, are to marry at Maghaberry top security jail, co. Antrim. Officials added that serving prisoners had married before, but this was the first time a Protestant and a Catholic had been involved. There were a total of ten weddings involving prisoners in the province last year, only one of which was between serving inmates.

Moore, who is a born-again Christian, was convicted of one of Northern Ireland's worst atrocities: in December 1982, 11 off-duty soldiers and six civilians were killed by a bomb planted by the Irish National Liberation Army at the Droppin' Well pub at Ballykelly, co. Londonderry.

Corry, who is thought formerly to have been associated with the Ulster Volunteer Force, was jailed for a pub bombing in 1972 in the centre of Belfast in which one man was killed.





Marriage made in prison: Anna Moore, serving life for the Droppin' Well bombing that killed 17 people, will wed Bobby Corry, another convicted murderer

The couple first got to know each other by exchanging letters between the women's and men's sections of Maghaberry jail. They then met, using relatives' visiting days to see each other.

The wedding, expected to take place in the prison chapel, may be conducted by an outside priest. They will be allowed between eight and ten guests and there will be a short reception afterwards, but no honeymoon. A photographer will be allowed to record the event and a cake, sausage rolls and non-alcoholic drinks will be provided.

The couple will not be allowed any conjugal relations while in prison and will remain in separate sections of the jail. They will rely on weekly visits to see each other.

Given the nature of her crime, Moore can expect to remain in prison for many more years. Corry, too, cannot expect to be released for some years, having been sentenced for the 1972 bombing only in 1986.

NEWS IN BRIEF

IRA attack injures civilian

The IRA said it used a new type of bomb in an attack on a police and army base at Crossmaglen yesterday that injured a civilian worker.

The heavily fortified base was badly damaged by the blast, caused by a mortar fired from a tractor and trailer outside the perimeter fence.

The injured man was flown to hospital and treated for abdominal injuries. A bomb disposal expert was later examining what was believed to be an unexploded mortar inside the base.

Husband-killer can appeal

A woman who admitted strangling her brutal husband and burying his body under their patio won permission to appeal against her 30-month jail sentence for manslaughter.

Jill Stubbs, 32, of Bentley, West Midlands, remarried after telling friends that Michael Devaughn had left her. She recently gave birth in prison but was refused bail pending the appeal hearing.

Horses starved

Six horses had to be destroyed after RSPCA officers found conditions like "an animal Belsen" on a farm at Leintwardine, Hereford and Worcester. More than 100 animals have been placed in care and prosecutions are likely against the owners.

Girl exhumed

Police are to take no further action after exhuming the body of Kerhys Coomber, 5, from Pontypridd, Mid Glamorgan. She was thought to have died of natural causes, but the grave was reopened six days after her death on January 11 when police were tipped off.

Welsh honour

A businessman from South Wales who left school at 15 with no qualifications has been awarded an honorary doctorate by the University of Wales. Alf Gooding, who studied at night school, sold his first engineering company for £15 million.

Stamp error

A faulty block of stamps bought at a post office in Hastings, East Sussex, for £5.60 in December sold for £23,100 at Phillips in London yesterday. They were printed with 26p instead of 25p.

Painful exit

A Nigerian traveller broke both his legs whee he jumped 25ft from a second-floor window at Southampton airport after being interviewed by immigration officers.

Police damages

PC Nigel Hart, 37, who injured his hand while pretending to be a burglar during training, has won £3,250 damages from the chief constable of Hampshire.

Airport deaths

The bodies of a man and woman were discovered in a car at Stansted airport, Essex. A gun was found and police are not seeking anyone in connection with the deaths.

Time and tide

A woman in Le Havre, Normandy, has replied to a message in a bottle thrown from a cross-Channel ferry ten years ago by Charlotte Denham, 20, of Plymouth.

Body found in peat shipment

By Our Ireland Correspondent

FRENCH and Irish police are trying to identify the body of a man found half-naked in a container-load of peat exported from Ireland to France.

The body was discovered on Wednesday when cargo staff at a freight depot at Rouen began unloading the peat. The dead man, thought to be in his thirties, was naked from the waist up. He had no identification on him and is thought to have been lying in the 40ft by 9ft container for almost two weeks.

Irish police are checking missing persons lists to try to discover the man's identity. One theory was that he may have been a tramp who sought shelter in the container before it was sealed for export.

"We are keeping an open mind at the moment, but he may have tried to light some of the peat for warmth and have been overcome by fumes," a senior officer said.

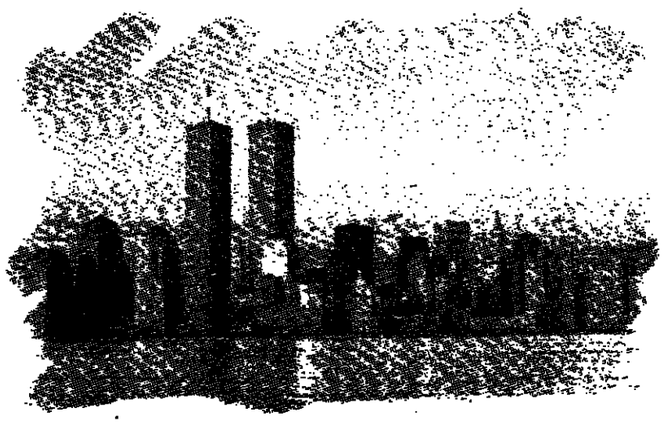
The investigation is centring on the town of Kilkenny, south of Dublin, where the peat was originally loaded in bails into the container.

It was then taken by road to Waterford port, where a security seal was put in place before it was shipped by Bell Lines to Le Havre on January 24. It was taken on by road to Rouen, where it stood in a field until being unlocked on Wednesday.

A worker at Waterford port, who did not wish to be named, said yesterday that he was shocked at the discovery. "It isn't nice to think there was someone in that container all that time," he told a local journalist.

"Maybe he was dead soon after he went in there, or maybe he broke in to go to sleep, no one knows. There is a certain amount of air in those containers, but not much."

The worker added that he and his colleagues were fairly sure that, if the man had been alive when the container reached Waterford port, they would have heard him banging for help. "But no one heard anything."



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The way it isn't

CRAIG BROWN



"THANK You For Not Smoking," read the notice in the taxi-cab as we crawled across London. It might have been an uneventful journey, but the driver was happy to let me know how he felt about all the major issues, puffing and blowing for the full five miles about this, that and the other.

"... terrible business, terrible ... it's her mother I feel sorry for ... I mean, I got nothing against them as such, but if they're unhappy here then why don't they go back to where they belong, that's what I'd like to know ... And this ERM lark, well, that's come to nothing, ain't it? ... And they still haven't arrested the man what done it ... I mean, it would never have happened in the old days ... But what really gets me, right, is why they took TV-am off when it was so popular ... And another thing, who does that Lamont bloke think he is, buying champagne all day, and as for that Lynda La Plante ..." And so it went on.

I arrived home exhausted. "Who does that Lamont bloke think he is, buying champagne all day?" I said to my wife. She looked at me quizzically. "You've been passive opinionising all day, haven't you?" she said. We calculated that from newspaper columnists, radio phone-ins, taxi-drivers, fellow tube-travellers, MPs on the television and flower-sellers I was passively inhaling over 150 different opinions every single day. From now on, whenever I get into a taxi, I will be wearing a card around my neck saying: "Thank You For Not Expressing An Opinion."

My doctor has every hope that, before long, my mind will slowly but surely show signs of improvement.

صكذا من الاصل

Government boosts job hopes with £2bn roads package

BY JONATHAN PRYNN AND TIM JONES

GOVERNMENT spending on main roads is to rise by 6 per cent to almost £2.1 billion in the next financial year, John MacGregor, the transport secretary announced in the Commons yesterday.

Mr MacGregor also signalled the publication, probably in April, of a discussion document on road tolls and private sector road building.

The programme for 1993–4 involves 41 new trunk road and motorway schemes, all due to be started by March next year. High-profile projects include the construction of fourth lanes to sections of the M25 in Surrey and the M62 in Greater Manchester, and a £113 million upgrading to motorway status of 13 miles of the A1 in North Yorkshire.

The announcement, which could create thousands of new jobs, was welcomed by the British Road Federation as good news for communities awaiting bypasses and for road users.

However, the Council for the Protection of Rural England claimed that the programme showed a "blatant disregard for the environment". It alleged that the government's green credibility had been thrown out of the window. William Sheate, CPRE's assistant secretary, said: "The Department of Transport has paid no more than lip service to the environmental costs of this accelerated roads programme. How does the government square this with its commitment to environmentally sustainable development?"

He said the rift between the transport department and the environment department was growing wider by the day.

Mike Cottell, president of the Institution of Civil Engineers, said the news was a welcome boost for the industry. He said the economic and social benefits of transport investment as a whole were substantial. "Public sector infrastructure investment has a direct and proven link with economic growth."

He added: "For every £1 invested by the government in roads, the average benefits to the community are more than doubled in terms of reductions in travel costs, journey times and accidents."

Mr MacGregor said that the investment, the highest in real terms for 20 years, "clearly demonstrates the extent of the government's commitment" to road infrastructure, and would involve 30,000 jobs in the construction industry. "All these 41 new schemes will bring substantial economic, safety and environmental benefits to road users and the country as a whole," Mr MacGregor said.

He added that the financial benefits from the new schemes in terms of accidents avoided and the easing of congestion had been estimated at £2.5 billion.

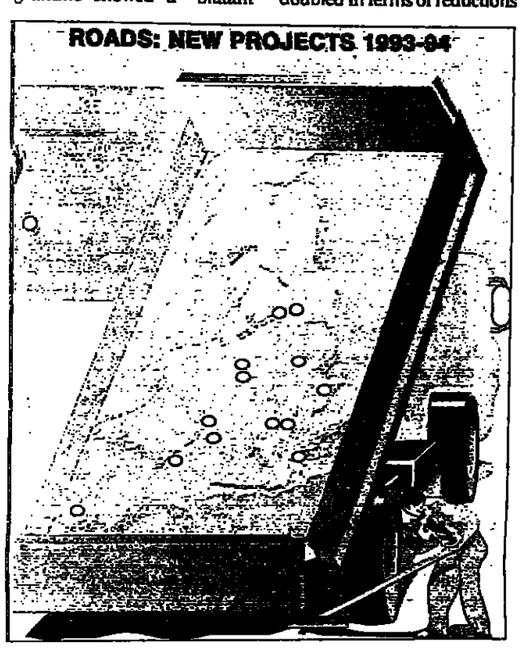
The announcement was attacked by Labour, which said that the new and widened roads would increase congestion and pollution in Britain. John Prescott, the shadow transport secretary, said the statement sounded the deathknell of the agreement signed at last year's Rio Earth Summit to reduce car exhaust gas emissions. The increase in road investment "contrasted vividly" with the government's policy of reducing spending on railways.

Mr MacGregor angrily rejected the claim, saying that Mr Prescott was "wrong on every count".

National and local investment in roads next year was set to total £2.9 billion compared with £2.2 billion on public transport. It was therefore "wholly wrong" to say that all the emphasis was on roads, Mr MacGregor said. He added that in London spending on public transport was three times that on the London roads programme.

The total expenditure includes £550 million for maintenance of roads and bridges and £1.37 billion for new road construction, and compares with £1.97 billion last year. Capital and current spending on roads at the national and local level will be £4.7 billion next year.

The announcements come two days after the bill to privatise the railways received its second reading.



Cabinet delays decision on coal

BY JILL SHERMAN
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE government's white paper on the coal industry is now expected to be delayed until the end of this month because of a cabinet split over funding a rescue package, legal problems and EC regulations.

Yesterday the full cabinet did not even discuss the draft proposals to bail out the coal industry, which had been drawn up by a committee chaired by Lord Wakeham.

Whitehall sources said that Lord Wakeham's committee would meet again after next week's cabinet meeting, so no cabinet decision would be taken until at least February 18. Officials said a white paper would then take about a week to prepare and print.

It is understood that while ministers are agreed in principle on a five-year tapering subsidy to reprieve about half of the pits threatened with closure, they are divided on the extent of the subsidy and how it should be funded. Ministers are likely to back a similar package to the £500 million plan proposed by the Commons trade and industry select committee last week. There is disagreement over whether the package should be funded by switching money from the nuclear subsidy or through a direct Treasury grant. Most ministers are opposed to an additional levy on electricity bills, although some of the cost could be passed on to consumers.

There have also been delays in reaching EC agreement on subsidies. Any subsidy for the energy sector has to be approved by EC officials, whether or not it means switching all or part of existing levies. Trade and industry officials said that negotiations were going well but had not been finalised. Michael Heseltine, President of the Board of Trade, is also waiting for a report from Ernst and Young, the accountants, on nuclear costs, which could sway the argument for switching some of the nuclear levy.

Officials made it clear that the government would not wait for the second Boyd report on the ten pits earmarked for closure, due on March 15.



Demolition expert: Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, who was addressing the Royal Society for Asian Affairs last night on how arms discussions should focus on the shifting alliances in central and far eastern former Soviet republics

Maastricht respite

MPS ARE to get a break from the interminable scrutiny of the bill to implement the Maastricht treaty (Robert Morgan writes). When Tony Newton, Leader of the House, yesterday announced the Commons business for next week, there was no mention of the bill, which shortly afterwards started its eleventh day of detailed consideration.

The break from the bill may be extended to the week after next because government business managers are content with progress already made. Business managers are also anxious to make more headway with other bills and get them into the House of Lords before the upper House has to deal with the Maastricht bill.

Patten foresees end of the 'nanny' state

BY MATTHEW D'ANCONA

CONTROL of local services would be given to voluntary "care associations" and town halls phased out under a radical scheme unveiled last night by John Patten, the education secretary.

Mr Patten, who has become the government's unofficial spokesman on constitutional matters, said in a speech to the Conservative Political Centre that the drive to devolve power to citizens should continue and that the management of grant-maintained schools and hospital trusts could be a model for other services.

"The creation of what might be called care associations could act as a powerful magnet for local commitment and involvement ... [and] could help identify local priorities and ensure that funds go where most needed," Mr Patten said. Care associations, which would resemble neighbourhood watch schemes and housing associations, should slowly take over allocation of local resources.

In a speech indicating the government's desire to continue restricting the role of local government, the education secretary said that the state should now act as "playground monitor" rather than nanny.

AROUND THE LOBBY

Brown to answer critics

Government action is required to encourage investment in industry, training and infrastructure since the British economy does not have an inherent capacity to grow, Gordon Brown, the shadow chancellor, will argue later this month.

He will outline the party's approach to economic policy in a series of speeches starting next week. These are partly intended to answer internal critics who say that Labour has not been sufficiently clear in putting forward an alternative approach. Mr Brown's speeches will follow an address on Sunday from John Smith, the party leader, claiming that Labour is the party of change.

Price rise

House prices fell by 7 per cent last year, Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, said at question time yesterday. But recent activity was consistent with his view in the Autumn Statement that house prices could start to rise this year.

NUT attacked

The prime minister condemned the decision of the NUT to boycott the English examination for 14-year-olds. At question time John Major said it was a disgraceful decision that over time the union would regret. "I utterly deplore the politically motivated campaign being waged by some members of the NUT," he said.

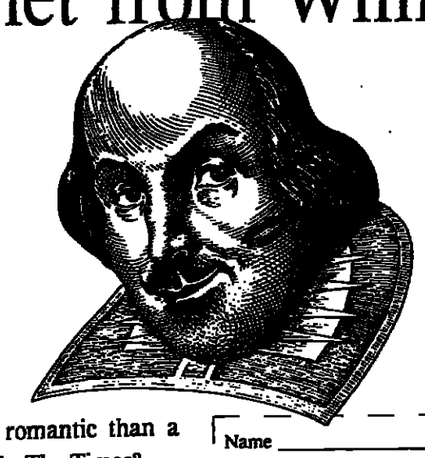
Spring break

The Commons spring recess will be from May 28 to June 7.

In Parliament

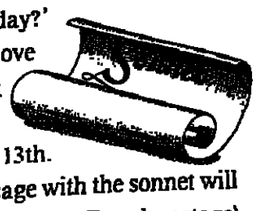
Commons (9.30): Private members' bills: caravan sites (amendment) bill and pensions bill, second readings.

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Delors spars with Brittan as Hoover job dispute grows

■ Hoover's relocation of jobs is under fire. EC law is powerless to prevent the move

FROM TOM WALKER IN BRUSSELS

JACQUES Delors, president of the European Commission, used the dispute over "social dumping" and Hoover's relocation of jobs from France to Scotland to relaunch yesterday his vision of a social Europe.

After meeting Hoover union leaders, M Delors arrived at the European parliament in Brussels in fighting form. He said the European Community had to move away from the "two-thirds society" where the gulf between rich and poor becomes so great that "proper sociological functioning breaks down".

He spoke of the "crime, drugs and poverty of inner cities," and called for a "proper share-out so we can find the old social balance. Society must reinvent itself," he said. "This will bring us closer to traditional socialist values."

His outspoken remarks jarred with comments made earlier in the day by Sir Leon Brittan, the external economic affairs commissioner, who questioned whether the EC could really afford "the highest levels of social protection". The philosophical split that has so often divided Brussels policy in the past is alive and well.

M Delors bitterly criticised countries that used currency devaluation as a lever to win jobs, but avoided direct criticism of the prime minister or the government. "I would refer you to one member state of the community without naming it," said M Delors. "Those who devalue in an extreme way will find health at the expense of the rest of the community. It's like three people shipwrecked — one person floats for the sake of the other two going under."

Nevertheless, he told the Hoover union leaders there was nothing in the short term the EC could do to prevent the relocation of jobs to lower cost economies. "He confirmed to us there have been no breaches of EC law in shipping jobs to Cambuslang from France," said the Scottish works' convenor, Eddie McAvoy. "He said he could do nothing about it."

Instead M Delors said social dumping should become impossible in Europe by giving unions their rightful say in management decisions. He praised the "courageous" attitude of unions over the last decade. "Are they the only agents on the market to give without taking?" he said. "We must do more for workers."

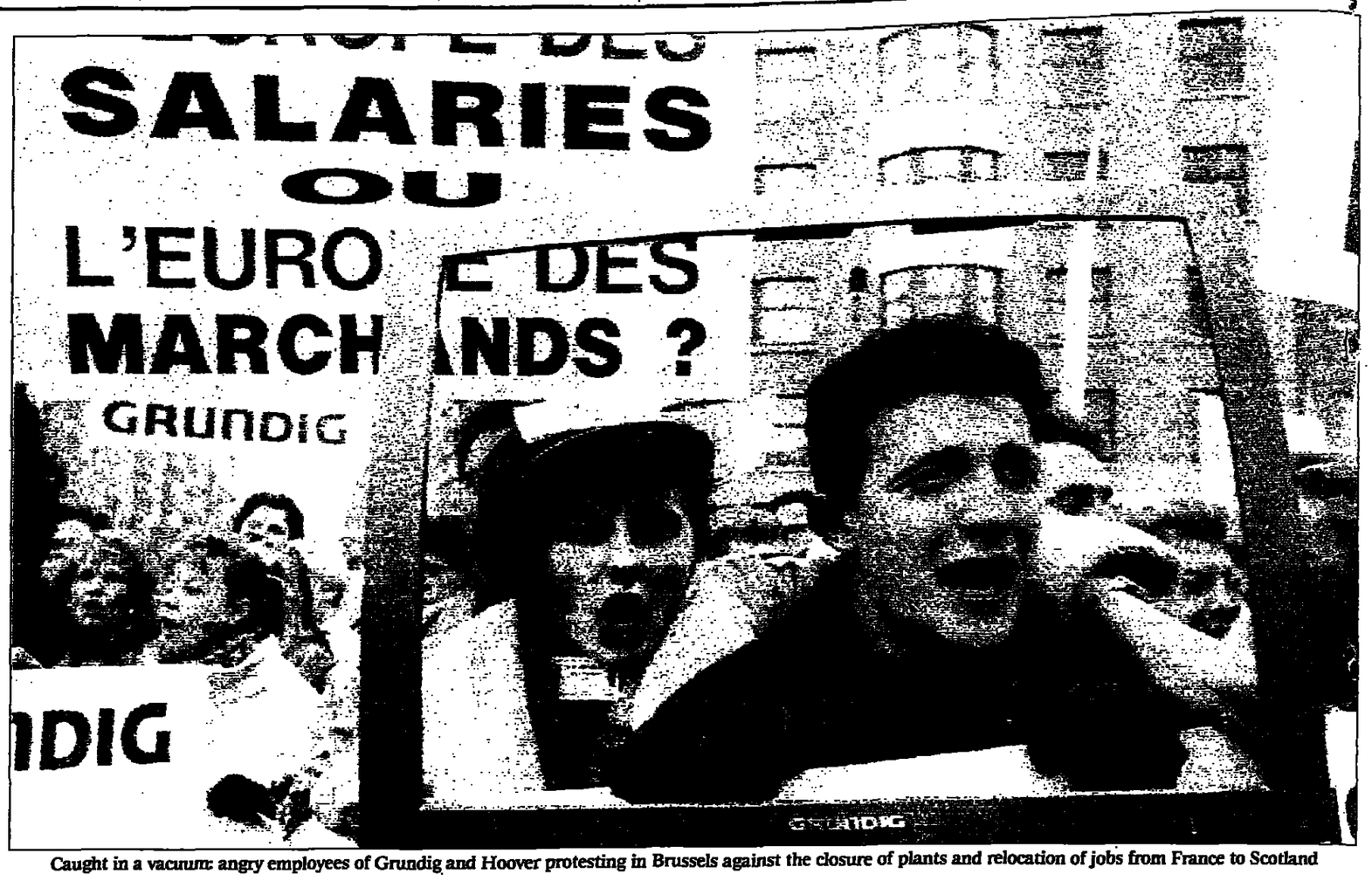
Reopening an old wound with Britain, M Delors said it was time for Brussels to reintroduce the controversial EC directive giving workers in multinational companies the right to information and participation in management decisions. He said if the directive was now European Community law (it has always been blocked in the Council of Ministers by Britain) then "I am not saying definitely but we could have had a different outcome," on Hoover.

While welcoming the slight drop in German interest rates, he acknowledged the deep crisis now besetting the exchange rate mechanism of the EMS. "The speculators are practically running the economies."

Vasso Papandreou, the Greek socialist and author of the *Social Charter* who has now left Brussels, warned that "nothing would change for a very long time," on social dumping. She backed M. Delors' call for worker participation.



Ms Papandreou: "No change for long time"



Caught in a vacuum: angry employees of Grundig and Hoover protesting in Brussels against the closure of plants and relocation of jobs from France to Scotland

Claims of 'sweatshop Britain' mask loss of jobs to Continent

France feels pain of the single market

FROM GEORGE BROCK IN BRUSSELS

THE European Community has regularly accused Britain of all manner of crimes but in the past few days a new charge has been added to the list: "social dumping".

French Socialist ministers, facing a heavy defeat at the polls next month, hurl the slogan at Britain almost hourly as *l'affaire Hoover* heats up the campaign. The bitter name-calling over the shift of 600 Hoover jobs from France to Britain reached Brussels yesterday as Jacques Delors, president of the European Commission, talked darkly of "cynical bosses and self-centred governments".

The closure of a Hoover factory in Dijon might not have attracted more than local attention if the company's announcement had not been made in the midst of a French election campaign coloured by economic decline. The allegation that Britain is becoming the EC's sweatshop state where ruthless multinationals can "dump" their plants ignores the scale of change sweeping European industry.

What the politicians are discovering is that the single market sometimes hurts. As one British official put it, with only a little exaggeration: "These things are happening every week."

There is little evidence that there is any net job flow from France to Britain or that jobs lost in France are flowing to Britain in larger numbers than to other states. A Johnson's Wax factory near Tours is to close with the loss of nearly 200 jobs. Most of the new jobs created by concentrating wax production will be created in The Netherlands.

The German television maker Grundig is threatening to move 900 jobs from Lorraine to Austria. A subsidiary of the American Rockwell corporation is moving a hundred jobs from Nantes to Preston.

But these moves are relatively small by comparison with the loss of British jobs to other EC countries. Britain may have lower wages but its continental counterparts can sometimes offer better-trained workforces, higher productivity or better access to the rich consumer markets of the northern half of the EC.

Pilkingtons, the glass makers, headquartered in St Helens for 165 years, cut 750 Lancashire jobs when they moved their corporate headquarters to Brussels. Unilever moved its head office from London to The Netherlands. Thomson, the state-owned French electronics group, shed 3,000 jobs when it closed a Ferguson television plant in Gosport in Hampshire. The computer firm, Unisys, cut 700 jobs in Livingstone, Scotland, and redistributed them in plants elsewhere in the EC. Caterpillar, the American machinery multinational, moved 1,200 jobs from Britain to Grenoble in 1987.

The single market is supposed to boost the entire European economy by encouraging rationalisation and efficiency. Large firms now face a wide range of choice to achieve the mix of conditions which will best suit their plants.

"If cost were the only factor," said one analyst, "then Mercedes would have long ago shut up shop in Stuttgart and be making cars in the Peloponnese. But the decisions aren't as simple as that."

Danes fix May date for Maastricht vote

FROM CHRISTOPHER FOLLETT IN COPENHAGEN

DENMARK announced yesterday that its second referendum on the European Community Maastricht treaty would be held on May 18.

After protracted negotiations, the seven mainstream parties in the Danish parliament which support a "yes" in the new vote agreed on the date for the poll. Opinion surveys point towards a clear "yes" vote.

The referendum will be on a revised deal agreed with the EC at a summit in Edinburgh in December, allowing the Danes to opt out of the treaty's long-term plans for a common currency and joint defence.

The new Social Democrat-led centre-left coalition resisted pressure from the opposition parties to hold the vote earlier, on April 27. The April date had been originally mooted by the conservative-liberal government before it resigned last month over a long-running political scandal.

"There was a clear majority among the seven parties to hold the referendum on the mid-May date. It gives us more time properly to inform the electorate about the content of Denmark's Maastricht deal," Ole Fich, the Social Democrat EC spokesman, said.

Uffe Ellemann-Jensen, the former Danish foreign minister, had urged the earlier vote so a swift clarification of Denmark's role within the EC would put a damper on the wave of speculation against the Danish krone within ERM.

"The quicker we can eradicate the uncertainty about Denmark's role in Europe, the better it will be for the krone and the Danish economy," Mr Ellemann-Jensen said.

Law Report February 5 1993 House of Lords

Withdrawal of medical treatment from hopeless case not unlawful

Airedale NHS Trust v Bland
Before Lord Keith of Kinkel, Lord Goff of Chieveley, Lord Lowry, Lord Browne-Wilkinson and Lord Mustill
[Speeches February 4]

It was not unlawful for doctors to withdraw life supporting medical treatment, including artificial feeding through a nasogastric tube, from a patient in a persistent vegetative state who had no prospect of any recovery or improvement when it was known that the discontinuance of treatment would cause the patient's death within a matter of weeks.

However, medical practitioners should apply to the court for a declaration in each case as to the legality of any proposed discontinuance of life support where there was no valid consent on the part of the patient.

The House of Lords so held in dismissing an appeal by the Official Solicitor, acting on behalf of Mr Anthony Bland, from the dismissal by the Court of Appeal (*The Times* December 10, 1992) of his appeal from Sir Stephen Brown, President of the Family Division (*The Times*, November 23, 1992) who had granted declarations on the application of the Airedale National Health Service Trust, in whose hospital Mr Bland was a patient:

"That despite the inability of the defendant to consent thereto, the plaintiff and the responsible attending physicians:

"(a) may lawfully discontinue all life-sustaining treatment and medical supportive measures designed to keep the defendant alive in his persistent vegetative state including the termination of ventilation nutrition and hydration by artificial means; and

"(b) may lawfully discontinue and thereafter need not furnish medical treatment to the defendant except for the sole purpose of enabling him to end his life and die peacefully with the greatest dignity and the least of pain suffering and distress."

Mr James Munby, QC, for the appellant by his guardian *ad litem*: Mr Robert Francis, QC and Mr Michael R. Taylor for the respondents: Mr Anthony Lester, QC and Mr Pushpinder Saini as *amici curiae*.

LORD GOFF said that there had been no disagreement between counsel that proceedings for declaratory relief of the kind considered by the House in *In re F (Mental Patient: Sterilisation)* ([1990] 2 AC 1) provided the most appropriate means by which authoritative guidance could be provided for the respondents to the appeal whose wish it was, in agreement with Anthony Bland's parents, to discontinue his artificial feeding, with the inevitable result that within one or two weeks he would die.

Of course, strong warnings had been given against the civil courts usurping the function of the criminal courts, and it had been authoritatively stated that a declaration as to the lawfulness or otherwise of future conduct was "no bar to a criminal prosecution, no matter the authority of the court which grants it" *per* Viscount Dilhorne in *Imperial Tobacco Ltd v Attorney General* ([1981] AC 718, 741).

But it was plain that the jurisdiction existed to grant such a declaration and on occasion had been exercised.

It would be a deplorable state of affairs if no authoritative guidance could be given to the medical profession in a case such as the present so that a doctor would be compelled either to act contrary to the principles of medical ethics established by his professional body or to risk a prosecution for murder.

To start with a simple fact, in law Anthony was still alive. It was true that his condition was such that it could be described as a living death, but he was nevertheless still alive. That was because, as a result of developments in modern medical technology, it had come to be accepted that death occurred when the brain and in particular the brain stem had been destroyed. Anthony's brain stem was still alive and functioning.

The fundamental principle of law was the sanctity of human life. But that principle was not absolute. There was no absolute rule that a patient's life had to be prolonged by medical treatment regardless of the circumstances.

First, it was established that the principle of self determination required that respect had to be given to the wishes of the patient, so that if an adult patient of sound mind refused, however unreasonably, to consent to treatment or care by which his life might be prolonged, the doctors responsible for his care had to give effect to his wishes, even though they did not consider it to be in his best interests to do so.

Moreover, the same principle applied where the patient's refusal to give his consent has been expressed at an earlier date before he became incapable of communicating.

In many cases not only might the patient be in no condition to be able to say whether or not he consented to treatment but he might have given no prior indication of his wishes.

There was no absolute obligation upon the doctor to prolong his life regardless of circumstances. Indeed it would be most startling and could lead to the most adverse and cruel effects upon the patient if any such absolute rule were held to exist.

It had to be stressed that the law drew a crucial distinction between cases in which a doctor decided not to provide or to continue to provide for his patient treatment which could or might prolong his life, and those in which he decided, for example by administering a lethal drug, actively to bring his patient's life to an end.

The former might be lawful either because the doctor was giving effect to his patient's wishes or even in certain circumstances in which the patient was incapacitated from stating whether or not he gave his consent.

But it was not lawful for a doctor to administer a drug to his patient to bring about his death, even though that course was prompted by a humanitarian desire to end his suffering.

So to act was to cross the Rubicon which ran between, on the one hand, the care of the living patient and, on the other hand, euthanasia, actively causing his death to avoid or end suffering.

At the heart of the distinction lay a theoretical question. Why was it that the doctor who gave his patient a lethal injection which killed him committed an unlawful act and was guilty of murder, whereas a doctor who, by discontinuing life support, allowed his patient to die might not act unlawfully and would not do so if he committed no breach of duty to his patient?

The doctor's conduct in discontinuing life support could properly be categorised as an omission. It was true that it might be difficult to describe what the doctor actually did as an omission, for example where he took some positive step to bring the life support to an end. But the discontinuation of life support was no different from not initiating life support in the first place.

In each case the doctor was simply allowing the patient to die in the sense that he was desisting from taking a step which might prevent his patient from dying as a result of his pre-existing condition: and as a matter of general principle an omission such as that would not be unlawful unless it constituted a breach of duty to the patient.

It was, of course, the development of modern medical technology, and in particular the development of life support systems, which had rendered cases such as the present so much more relevant than in the past.

Even so, where a patient was brought into hospital in such a condition that, without the benefit of a life support system, he would not continue to live, the decision had to be made whether or not to give him that benefit, if available. That decision could only be made in the best interests of the patient.

But if he neither recovered sufficiently to be taken off it nor died the question would ultimately arise whether he should be kept on it indefinitely. That question could only be answered by reference to the best interests of the patient himself, having regard to established medical practice.

Indeed if the justification for treating a patient who lacked the mental capacity to consent lay in the fact that treatment was provided in his best interests, it had to follow that the treatment might and ultimately should be discontinued where it was no longer in his best interests to provide it. The question which lay at the heart of the present case was whether on that principle the doctors responsible for the treatment and care of Anthony Bland could justifiably discontinue the process of artificial feeding upon which the prolongation of life depended.

It was crucial for the understanding of the question that the question itself should be correctly formulated. The question was not whether the doctor should take a course which would kill his patient, or even take a course which had the effect of accelerating his death.

The question was whether the doctor should or should not continue to provide his patient with medical treatment which, if continued, would prolong his patient's life.

The correct formulation of the question was of particular importance in a case such as the present where the patient was totally unconscious and where there was no hope whatsoever of any amelioration of his condition.

In such circumstances it might be difficult to say that it was in his best interests that treatment should be ended. But if the question was asked whether it was in his best interests that treatment which had the effect of artificially prolonging his life should be continued, that question could sensibly be answered to the effect that his best interests no longer required that it should be.

For his Lordship's part, he could not see that medical treatment was appropriate or requisite simply to prolong a patient's life, when such treatment had no therapeutic purpose of any kind, as where it was futile because the patient was unconscious and there was no prospect of any improvement in his condition.

It was reasonable also that account should be taken of the invasiveness of the treatment and of the indignity to which a person had to be subjected if his life was prolonged by artificial means, which must cause considerable distress to his family — distress which reflected not only their own feelings but their perception of the situation of their relative who was being kept alive. But in the end it was the futility of the treatment which justified its termination.

His Lordship did not consider that in such circumstances a doctor was required to initiate or to continue life-prolonging treatment or care in the best interests of his patient. It followed that no such duty rested upon the respondents in the case of Anthony Bland whose condition was in reality no more than a living death and for whom such treatment or care would in medical terms be futile. In the present case, it was proposed that the doctors should be entitled to discontinue both the artificial feeding of Anthony and the use of antibiotics.

It was plain from the evidence that Anthony in his present condition was very prone to infection and that over some necessarily uncertain but not very long period of time he would succumb to infection which, if unchecked, would spread and cause his death. But the effect of discontinuing the artificial feeding would be that he would inevitably die within one or two weeks.

Objection could be made to the latter course of action on the ground that Anthony would thereby be starved to death and that that would constitute a breach of the duty to feed him which must form an essential part of the duty which every person owed to another in his care. But here again it was necessary to analyse precisely what that meant in the case of Anthony.

Anthony was not merely incapable of feeding himself. He was incapable of swallowing and therefore of eating and drinking in the normal sense of those words. There was overwhelming evidence that, in the medical profession, artificial feeding was regarded as a form of medical treatment; and even if it was not strictly medical treatment, it must form part of the medical care of the patient.

Indeed the function of artificial feeding in the case of Anthony, by means of a nasogastric tube, was to provide a form of life support analogous to that provided by a ventilator. The same principles had to apply in either case: and if in either case the treatment was futile it could properly be concluded that it was no longer in the best interests of the patient to continue it.

It was true that in the case of discontinuance of artificial feeding it could be said that the patient would as a result starve to death. But it was clear from the evidence that no pain or suffering would be caused to Anthony who could feel nothing at all.

Furthermore, the outward symptoms of dying in such a way, which might otherwise cause distress to those caring for him could be suppressed by means of sedatives. In those circumstances there was no ground for refusing the declarations applied for simply because the course of action proposed involved the discontinuance of artificial feeding.

In *In re F* it was stated that where a doctor provided treatment for a person who was incapacitated from saying whether or not he consented to it, doctors, when deciding on the form of treatment, had to act in accordance with a responsible and competent body of relevant professional opinion, on the principles set down in *Bolam v Friern Hospital Management Committee* ([1957] 1 WLR 582). That principle must equally be applicable to decisions to initiate or discontinue life support as it was to other forms of treatment.

However, in a matter of such importance and sensitivity it was to be expected that guidance would be provided for the profession; and on the evidence such guidance was to be found in a "Discussion Paper on Treatment of Patients in Persistent Vegetative State", issued in September 1992 by the medical ethics committee of the British Medical Association. Anybody reading that paper would discover for himself the great care with which the topic was being considered by the profession.

Attention had been drawn to four safeguards in particular which should be observed before discontinuing life support for such patients:

1 Every effort should be made at rehabilitation for at least six months after injury.

2 The diagnosis of irreversible PVS should not be considered confirmed until at least 12 months after the injury.

3 The diagnosis should be agreed by at least two other independent doctors, and

4 Generally, the wishes of the patient's immediate family would be given great weight.

Study of that document left his Lordship in no doubt that if a doctor treating a PVS patient acted in accordance with the medical practice now being evolved by the medical ethics committee, he would be acting with the benefit of guidance from a responsible and competent body of relevant professional opinion.

American courts adopted the approach under which the court sought in a case in which the patient was incapacitated from expressing any view on the question whether life-prolonging treatment should be withheld in the relevant circumstances, to determine what decision the patient himself would have made had he been able to do so. That was called the substituted judgment test and generally involved a detailed enquiry into the patient's views and preferences.

However, such a test did not form a part of English law in relation to incompetent adults on whose behalf nobody had power to give consent to medical treatment. Certainly in *In re F* the House adopted a straightforward test based on the best interests of the patient: and his Lordship could not see why the same test should not be applied in the case of PVS patients where the question was whether life-prolonging treatment should be withheld.

His Lordship turned finally to the extent to which doctors should, as a matter of practice, seek the guidance of the court by way of an application for declaratory relief before withholding life-prolonging treatment from a PVS patient.

The President had considered that the opinion of the court should be sought in all cases similar to the present and the Master of the Rolls had expressed his agreement.

There was much to be said for the view that an application to the court would not be needed in every case but only in particular circumstances where, for example, there was disagreement. However, that was a matter which would be better kept under review by the President of the Family Division than resolved in the instant case.

His Lordship would therefore leave the matter as proposed by the Master of the Rolls but expressed the hope that the President, who would no doubt be kept informed of developments in the field, would soon feel able to relax the present requirement so as to limit applications for declarations to those cases in which there was a special need for the procedure to be invoked.

Lord Keith and Lord Lowry delivered concurring judgments.

LORD BROWNE-WILKINSON, concurring, said that he was conscious that he had reached his conclusions on narrow, legalistic grounds which provided no satisfactory basis for the decision of cases which would arise in the future where the facts were not identical.

He emphasised that this was an extreme case where it could be overwhelmingly proved that the patient was and would remain insensate; he neither felt pain from treatment nor would feel pain in dying and had no prospect of any medical care improving his condition.

Unless, as his Lordship very much hoped, Parliament reviewed the law, the courts would be faced with cases where the chances of improvement were slight, or the patient had very slight sensate awareness. His Lordship expressed no view on what would be the answer in such circumstances.

Therefore, for the foreseeable future, doctors would be well advised in each case to apply to the court for a declaration as to the legality of the proposed discontinuance of life support where there had been no valid consent by or on behalf of the patient to such discontinuance.

LORD MUSTILL, concurring, said that while the reasoning he proposed was broadly in line with that of their Lordships, he ventured some reservations about the application of the principle of civil liability in negligence laid down in *Bolam* to decisions on "best interests" in a field dominated by the criminal law.

His Lordship accepted without difficulty that that principle applied to the ascertainment of the medical raw material such as diagnosis, prognosis and appraisal of the patient's cognitive functions.

Beyond that point however, it might be said that the decision was ethical not medical and that there was no reason in logic why on such a decision the opinions of doctors should be decisive. However, his Lordship expressed no opinion on that question.

Solicitors: Official Solicitor; Mr W. J. M. Lovel, Harrogate; Treasury Solicitor

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US confusion and scorn jeopardise Owen peace package

By Eve-Ann Prentice
Diplomatic Correspondent

■ "Friendly fire" has struck. Warren Christopher is rumoured not to have read the peace text before he met Lord Owen

THE Vance-Owen peace plan for Bosnia was on the critical list last night, the victim of friendly fire in that it was America — and not the Serbs, Russia or even European disarray — which has dealt it the most serious blow.

Lord Owen and Cyrus Vance have been trying in vain to persuade Washington to endorse the proposals so pressure could be brought to bear on the warring factions to sign the accord. Without US backing, even the Vance-Owen plan's most ardent admirers admit it cannot survive.

President Clinton and his administration are reluctant to give their blessing for two main reasons: dread of putting American troops on the ground in the Balkan quagmire, and concern at being seen to reward the Serbs' "ethnic cleansing" by giving them territory they have seized in Bosnia. Lord Owen has been trying to counter this, saying the Serbs get about 43 per cent of Bosnian territory under his plan, whereas they now hold about 71 per cent.

The Geneva plan has three main categories: constitutional provisions, which have been signed by Bosnia's Serbs, Croats and Muslims; arrangements for military disengagement, signed by the Serbs and Croats, but not by Alija Izetbegovic, the Muslim leader; and the map which divides the republic into ten semi-autonomous provinces, signed by the Croats and which Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader, has indicated he would sign with minor changes, but which is the real sticking point for the Muslims.

America's reluctance over the plan flies in the face of rare agreement between the European Community, Russia, and the rest of the United Nations Security Council, including China. Even though some small European countries are reported to have some reservations about the plan, Community foreign ministers backed the scheme itself — and not just the Geneva peace process — when they met in Brussels earlier this week.

Andrei Kozyrev, the Russian foreign minister, yesterday pressed the security council to support the Vance-Owen peace plan and back it with sanctions. "The entire weight of the security council and the power of sanctions should be placed behind this plan," Mr Kozyrev said in Moscow after talks with Barbara McDougall, the visiting Canadian secretary of state for external affairs.

Western backing for the Geneva plan has largely arisen because the rest of the non-Muslim world can see no alternative, and wonders what America can offer in its place. The Vance-Owen plan is written on about 70 pages of closely typed paper, and it is rumoured in New York that Warren Christopher, the American Secretary of State, had not even read the text when he met Lord Owen to discuss it. Mr Christopher also thought that the Serbs were to be given 43 per cent of Bosnian territory from a starting point of zero, according to New York sources.

Those who support the Geneva plan are concerned that the ball of Balkan diplomacy may move inexorably in Washington's court if the last rites are read on the Vance-Owen plan. They are worried that Washington may press for a lifting of the arms embargo on the former Yugoslav republics — a policy espoused by the Muslim world, which wants its Bosnian brethren to be able to fight more effectively. Washington has also said it will not press the Bosnian Muslims to accept the Geneva plan. America may widen the scope of any new peace process to include areas of strife such as the Serbian provinces of Kosovo and Vojvodina, and the Serb enclave of Krajina in Croatia.

Two weeks after the Croats launched a surprise offensive, ethnic Serbs and Croats have agreed to start negotiations in New York, a senior United Nations official said last night. Cedric Thornberry, director of the civilian component of the UN Protection Force, said that the leaders of the Serbian community in the enclave of Krajina had agreed to meet Croatian leaders.

In Madrid, Javier Solana, the Spanish foreign minister, said that Spain, as one of the four countries that have sent infantry battalions to escort humanitarian convoys in Bosnia, believed that the Owen-Vance plan was the only alternative.

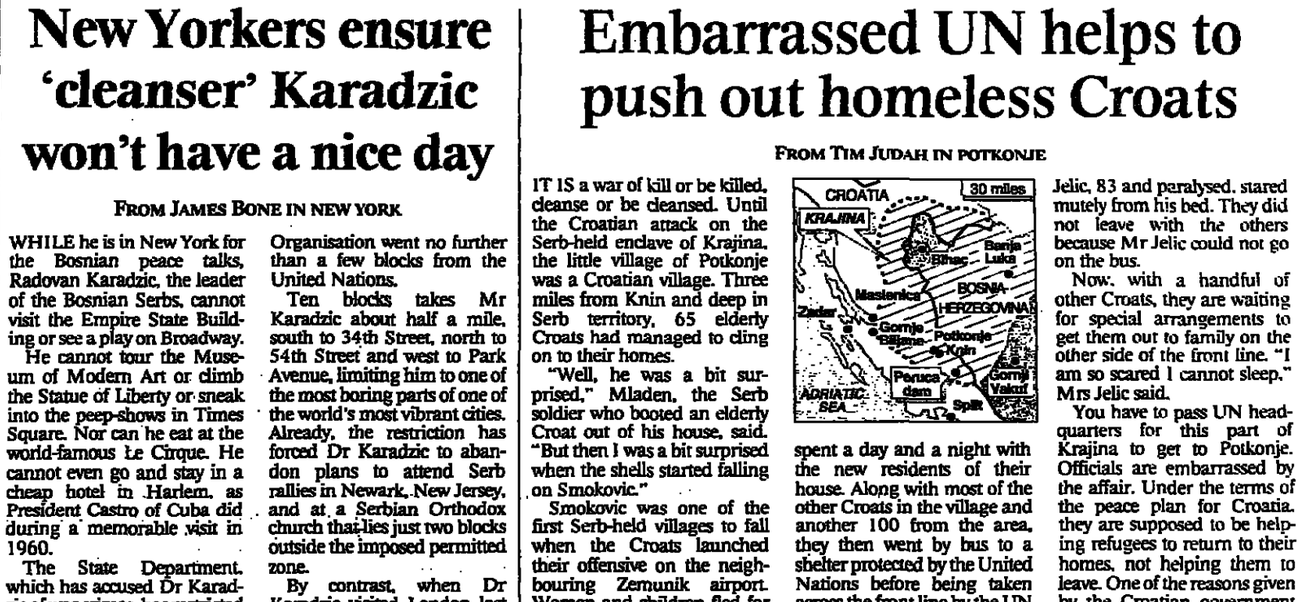
"Now we have a plan that has constitutional aspects, maps and very concrete ceasefire and transition proposals. Its implementation is going to be very difficult but the alternatives are grim," he declared.

"Whatever happens, we are talking about the deployment of a force, some say of up to 15,000, on the territory in conflict and this force has to include US participation. Britain, France and Spain cannot take full responsibility alone."

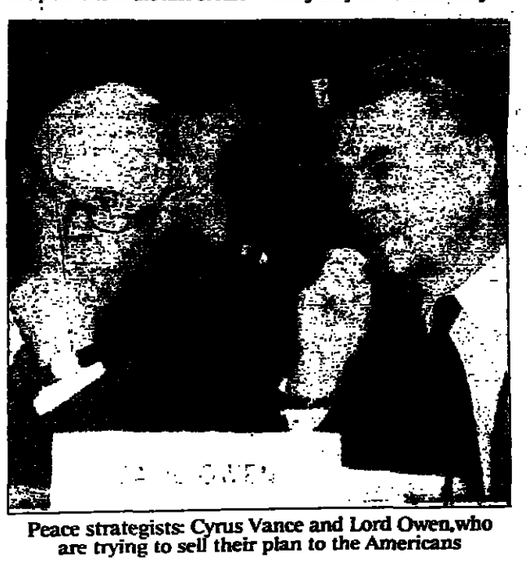
Spain now has 850 troops around Split and a frigate in the Adriatic. Soon a Spanish operation, codenamed Alfa Bravo and being financed by the Spanish government, will be reinforced with heavier arms.

The Spanish attitude to both EC matters and the Yugoslav conflict is that Europe must not return to the xenophobia and racism of the 1930s. Therefore Spain does not see why those countries with louder voices on the security council, but not at the moment directly involved in the conflict in any way, should jeopardise the peace plan.

Fighting fear, page 13



Water run: an elderly Bosnian, carrying a jerrycan, rushes to dodge snipers' bullets through the debris of Skenderija Square in Sarajevo yesterday. The shortage of water is forcing residents of the besieged city to take what supplies they can direct from the Miljacka river



Peace strategists: Cyrus Vance and Lord Owen, who are trying to sell their plan to the Americans

New Yorkers ensure 'cleanser' Karadzic won't have a nice day

From James Bone in New York

WHILE he is in New York for the Bosnian peace talks, Radovan Karadzic, the leader of the Bosnian Serbs, cannot visit the Empire State Building or see a play on Broadway.

He cannot tour the Museum of Modern Art or climb the Statue of Liberty or sneak into the peep-shows in Times Square. Nor can he eat at the world-famous Le Cirque. He cannot even go and stay in a cheap hotel in Harlem, as President Castro of Cuba did during a memorable visit in 1960.

The State Department, which has accused Dr Karadzic of war crimes, has restricted his movements to within a ten-block radius of the United Nations headquarters at the eastern end of 42nd Street. "We do not want Karadzic to have a good time while he is here," a United States diplomat said. "He is not here to sight-see."

The ten-block limit is considerably more severe even than the 25-mile radius imposed on Yassir Arafat during his one controversial trip to New York in 1974, although for security reasons the leader of the Palestine Liberation Organisation went no further than a few blocks from the United Nations.

Ten blocks takes Mr Karadzic about half a mile, south to 34th Street, north to 54th Street and west to Park Avenue, limiting him to one of the most boring parts of one of the world's most vibrant cities. Already, the restriction has forced Dr Karadzic to abandon plans to attend Serb rallies in Newark, New Jersey, and at a Serbian Orthodox church that lies just two blocks outside the imposed permitted zone.

By contrast, when Dr Karadzic visited London last August for the Yugoslav peace conference, he was allowed the run of the town and held talks with John Major.

Many New Yorkers have bitter memories of the Nazis' attempt to impose a "final solution" on the Jews in the second world war. Senator Alphonse D'Amato, of New York, dubbed the Bosnian Serb leader "Mr Ethnic Cleanser".

"America must not coddle mass murderers by issuing this visa. We are rewarding an aggressor," Mr D'Amato said.

Embarrassed UN helps to push out homeless Croats

From Tim Judah in Potkonje

IT IS a war of kill or be killed, cleanse or be cleansed. Until the Croatian attack on the Serb-held enclave of Krajina, the little village of Potkonje was a Croatian village. Three miles from Knin and deep in Serb territory, 65 elderly Croats had managed to cling on to their homes.

"Well, he was a bit surprised," Mladen, the Serb soldier who booted an elderly Croat out of his house, said. "But then I was a bit surprised when the shells started falling on Smokovic."

Smokovic was one of the first Serb-held villages to fall when the Croats launched their offensive on the neighbouring Zemunik airport. Women and children fled for their lives and its menfolk resisted as long as they could. Smokovic fell and its people had nowhere to go. Mladen said: "Then we heard that Croats were living in total security here. It wasn't right."

Mladen's children curled up to sleep on the sofa. His Kalashnikov and that of his friend Zeljko were propped up on the other end. "My stable was cleaner than this village," said Mladen. "Yeh, Smokovic was California compared to here," said Zeljko.

Slavko Maricic and his wife spent a day and a night with the new residents of their house. Along with most of the other Croats in the village and another 100 from the area, they then went by bus to a shelter protected by the United Nations before being taken across the front line by the UN to Croatia.

Mladen said that he let Mr Maricic take whatever he wanted. "It was a bit difficult, but he realised that there was no other way. I gave him my address in Smokovic and said 'It's yours', but the house has been burnt down. He took a lot of salamis with him. He left a goat and a cow, but I had more than him. I had three tractors and lots of pigs."

"Are you the Red Cross?" asked Anna Jelic, 72, feebly. "We are not ready to go; my husband is not dressed." Ivan Jelic, 83 and paralysed, stared mutely from his bed. They did not leave with the others because Mr Jelic could not go on the bus.

Now, with a handful of other Croats, they are waiting for special arrangements to get them out to family on the other side of the front line. "I am so scared I cannot sleep," Mrs Jelic said.

You have to pass UN headquarters for this part of Krajina to get to Potkonje. Officials are embarrassed by the affair. Under the terms of the peace plan for Croatia, they are supposed to be helping refugees to return to their homes, not helping them to leave. One of the reasons given by the Croatian government for its recent attack was that the United Nations had made no progress in returning Croat refugees.

However, according to Jeannie Peterson, the senior civilian UN official in Knin, the situation is now reversed. "We have received many appeals from the Croatian government to facilitate the transfer of Croats to the Croatian side." Then she added tersely: "The cause of the current problem was the Croatian attacks. Let's not lose sight of that."

Party chiefs go as race petition fails

From Michael Binyon in Vienna

Austria's right-wing Freedom party was thrown into turmoil yesterday when its deputy leader and four other senior politicians abruptly resigned after voters had rebuffed the anti-foreigner campaign led by Jörg Haider, its populist leader.

After a divisive campaign with racist overtones, he obtained only 417,000 signatures supporting his "Austria First" initiative. That was well short of the million he had predicted. His 12-point plan to halt immigration, set up separate schools for non-German-speakers, send back all illegal aliens, and force foreigners to carry insurance papers and work permits was widely seen as the most racially discriminatory legislation proposed anywhere in Western Europe.

The poll provoked controversy and anguish in Austria and abroad over whether the country had really overcome its Nazi past. Franz Vranitzky, the chancellor, spoke of his country's "relief" at the outcome, but admitted in an interview yesterday that the result still indicated widespread worries about immigration, job losses and a fear that Austria had lost its sense of identity.

The relatively modest support for the "national petition" is the first political setback in the spectacular rise of Herr Haider, the charismatic leader of Austria's smallest party. His modest poll also reflected the recent and considerable opposition to the anti-foreigner campaign, which led last week to the biggest demonstration in Vienna seen since the rallies in support of Hitler.

Nevertheless, the two-month campaign obtained more than four times the minimum number of signatures needed to force parliament to debate its proposals. It also showed that the wave of sentiment for Herr Haider's views may be far larger than supposed; signing the petition in town halls was not secret, so supporters had to defy the vigorous opposition of virtually every public body in the country.

Disappointed but defiant, Herr Haider compared his stance yesterday with that of Baroness Thatcher, and told *The Times* he was not afraid of the label "populist" if that meant representing the people's will.

Austrians were largely relieved by the petition's perceived failure. They had feared a new "Waldheim effect", with accusations abroad of endemic racism. However, almost 100,000 people signed the petition in Vienna alone; the highest proportion was achieved in one alpine village, far from the immigrant centres, where 38 per cent signed the petition. As a government official said: "It is the old story of Austria: anti-semitism is strongest where there are no Jews."

Dictator treads the corrupt and brutal path of Leopold



Leopold II: amassed fortune from rubber

By Sam Kiley
Africa Correspondent

THE AIR in Zaire's capital, Kinshasa, is heavy. Dense humidity produces fungi that spread a green patina over cement and rots it. The air also carries the unmistakable scent of corruption which first emanated not from President Mobutu but from the Belgian royal family.

Mobutu Sese Seko Kuku Ngbendu wa za Banga, reputed to be the fifth richest man in the world, having amassed a fortune of at least $9 billion (£6.3 billion) after reducing his country to destitution, is the heir to the nation's "founding father" — Leopold II, King of the Belgians.

Leopold, a much underestimated and conniving backroom politician, ran the Congo Free State south of the Congo river as a personal fiefdom after persuading the journalist-explorer, Henry Stanley, to set up trading stations along the river's course in the name of Christianity, civilisation, and commerce. Only one of David Livingstone's "three Cs" survived Leopold's reign between 1878 and 1907 over the tropical treasure store he never saw: commerce.

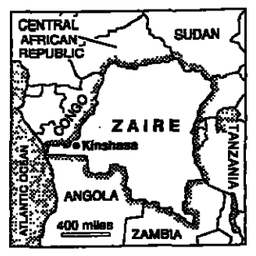
Zaire is abundant in copper, diamonds, cobalt, zinc, gold, cassiterite, manganese, cadmium, silver, wolframite, and columbo-tantalite. It has oil and a million square miles of unexploited hardwood forest, plus an equatorial climate to supplement its fertile soils.

In the guise of philanthropy, Leopold's agents persuaded the great powers to recognise the Congo Free State as a sovereign entity controlled by him through adventurers such as Stanley, who subdued the locals with the breech-loading rifle and armies of cannibals. One of Leopold's lieutenants remarked in a letter home after a particularly bloody massacre of rival Arab slave traders that cannibalism in battle was "horrible but exceedingly useful and hygienic".

It was such considerations that allowed Leopold to regain the fortune that his family sank into enterprises in the Congo through the production of wild rubber. Publicly a crusader against slavery, Leopold amassed a fortune from the boom in rubber after the invention of the pneumatic tyre by forcing local people to harvest rubber gum at gun point. Those who failed to meet quotas were killed or had their hands chopped off.

Mr Mobutu is believed to have hidden his fortune in Swiss bank accounts. Leopold, who kept his real earnings from the Congo Free State off the books, secreted his in a German-based trust.

Thousands of villages were depopulated under Leopold. Then, in 1907, as now, the great powers ganged up on the Congolese "head of state" and demanded that he step aside. Horrified by the reports of brutality under the Free State, the French and American governments put pressure on the Belgian administration to take over the running of the territory from their king.



Yesterday in Brussels, the French, Americans, and Belgians demanded that Mr Mobutu step aside and hand over the reigns of government to his rival, Etienne Tshisekedi.

But when Leopold handed over the running of the Free State to the Belgian administration, he kept most of the lucrative rubber areas. After his death, the exploitation of the richly endowed virgin lands populated by "backward" people easily trapped into peonage continued.

The Belgians left only a handful of indigenous graduates and no black above the rank of sergeant major in the armed forces when they granted Zaire independence in 1960 and fled.

The return of Zaire to a pre-industrial age after the exodus of 100,000 foreigners left a vacuum which Mr Mobutu filled in 1965. He is accused of feathering his own nest and corrupting those opponents he has been unable to kill or exile. Now he seldom enters Kinshasa (formerly Leopoldville) and spends most of his time on a luxury boat moored outside the capital or at his home village, Ngabolite — the only hamlet in the world with an international airport.

The "immortal red hot chilli pepper" or "the cock to jump all the chicks in the farmyard", as Mr Mobutu's full name is variously translated, may take the advice of the Western powers and flee Zaire before he is toppled and retire, like Leopold, to one of his châteaux in the south of France. But he will leave an anarchic Zaire ruled only by mammon. The question now is whether Mr Tshisekedi can lay the Belgian king's ghost to rest.

Western governments struggle to find way of curbing Mobutu

From Charles Bremner
in Paris

■ French paternalism in Africa has helped to spawn dictatorships. Now demands by Paris for greater freedom are being ignored

WHILE President Mitterrand presided over the funeral of France's ambassador to Zaire in Paris yesterday, French, Belgian, American and European Community envoys struggled in Brussels to find a way to put muscle behind their demand for the departure of President Mobutu. Their options are limited.

In France, the only colonial power to have maintained a powerful presence in Africa, the failure to curb the despotic behaviour of former clients in Zaire, Togo and other states is embarrassing the Mitterrand administration.

Short of military intervention, which has been ruled out by Roland Dumas, the French foreign minister, President Mobutu's main Western patrons have few remedies at their disposal for tipping the dictator from office. At their Brussels meeting, Herman Cohen, the American assistant Secretary of State for Africa, and his counterparts Jean de la Sablière of France and Wilfried Jaenen of Belgium, were said to be reviewing options. Those run from economic and diplomatic sanctions to aid for an interim government and the seizure of President Mobutu's holdings abroad which are said to exceed Zaire's foreign debt.

Seizing assets could prove technically and legally difficult; sanctions could simply punish the people and drive President Mobutu to greater defiance; aid to Etienne Tshisekedi, the prime minister of an interim government sacked by the president in December, is likely to fall into the wrong hands.

The three countries cut all but humanitarian aid to Zaire in 1991 after the bloody suppression of an earlier round of riots. President Mobutu reacted with scorn yesterday to the three countries' demand that he hand over power to the interim government. "They want to condemn the fireman on behalf of the arsonist," he said.

The three blamed Zaire's self-styled "Supreme Guide" squarely for the latest crisis, which has resulted in the deaths of more than 300 people since the army mutiny last Thursday, including Philippe Bernard, the French ambassador.

Mr Tshisekedi called on Monday for foreign troops to restore order in his country, but France, which sent troops to help in evacuating foreign citizens, said it was no longer ready to play the gendarme in Africa as it had done during the Cold war. "There is no question of standing in for governments or peoples there in their choice of one leader or another," M Dumas said. France withdrew its troops yesterday.

M Dumas' remarks also applied to Togo, another client state, whose leader for the past 26 years, General Gnassingbe Eyadema, ordered troops to fire on crowds during a joint visit late last month by Marcel Debarge and Helmut Schafer, the French and German ministers responsible for African co-operation. At least 20 were killed, including a French child. Yesterday, France and Germany called the two Togolese factions to a negotiating session in the French city of Colmar on Sunday.

The tyrannical behaviour of leaders long backed by France has highlighted the failure of a campaign launched by M Mitterrand to encourage democracy in the French-speaking states. For his first nine years in office, M Mitterrand had maintained the paternalistic relations with African leaders that had been pursued by his right-wing predecessors. His main instrument was his son, Jean-Christophe, a former journalist, whom he appointed as his personal go-between. The job led the younger Mitterrand to be satirically dubbed "Papamadit" (Daddy-told-me).

In 1990, M Mitterrand used his annual "francophone summit" to read the riot act, telling President Mobutu and other leaders that economic aid, which still totals nearly £100 a year for every French citizen, would henceforward depend on steps to democracy. There have been few results.

President Mobutu and other unpopular leaders are now banking on a much more sympathetic approach from the conservative government that is expected to replace the Socialists after elections late next month. Charles Pasqua, the Gaullist heavyweight and likely minister in the next government, has been touring Africa reassuring leaders there that they can expect less interference under conservatives. The French press have dubbed him "Africa Charlie".



Riding shotgun: a Russian militiaman travelling on a special platform on the Russian-Caucasian train as it passes through Cherkesk station in Chechenia. Security was tightened and all trains are now protected after passengers had been robbed by armed gangs on the route

Old despot steers Rangoon repression

From James Pringle in Rangoon

GENERAL Ne Win, at 82 Burma's aging but virile despot, is a man of sudden whims and huge rages who has also a healthy respect for the occult. Xenophobic, megalomaniac, superstitious and idiosyncratic — these are some of the descriptions of him in Rangoon's diplomatic community.

On the human side, he likes to spend time with his grandchildren; at the same time he has an eye for the women, having had five wives. Street gossip, a dangerous pastime here, says he now has a liaison with a 30-year-old woman from Arakan province.

It is the general, a former associate of the assassinated Aung San, hero of Burma's independence struggle with Britain, who has brought Burma, once one of South-east Asia's richest countries, close to economic ruin, its health and education system impoverished, its citizens afraid of contact with foreigners and harassed by an omnipresent secret police. It is he who has held the daughter of Aung San, the pro-democracy campaigner, Aung San Suu Kyi, under house arrest for three and a half years, and he has presided over the massive human rights abuses of the State Law and Order Restoration Council, a military junta that took over in 1988 after the bloody suppression of pro-democracy protests.

"Ne Win still pulls the strings," a foreign diplomat said. "The military chiefs run things day by day but go to him before making any important decisions. He appointed them all and they owe their loyalty to him. He is the ultimate arbiter of power."

Foreign envoys say that as long as the general is alive — and, despite being a chronic worrier about his health, he is said to be fighting fit — Daw Suu Kyi, awarded the Nobel peace prize in 1991, will not be freed to participate in political life here, such as it is.

He is unforgiving because he perceives that Daw Suu Kyi did the unpardonable: criticised him in public.

General Ne Win, who started his career as a postal clerk and, according to some, climbed on Aung San's bandwagon during the independence struggle, has held the line against various ethnic insurgents such as the Karen, Shan and Mon. But the government he overthrew had been discussing a settlement with these ethnic groups, who have no trust in the general.

The elderly dictator is presumed behind moves now towards limited relaxation here, as the regime attempts to ease an international aid embargo by lifting curfew and some martial law decrees, and freeing some political prisoners. But it has been under General Ne Win's stewardship since he seized power in 1962 that Burma declined, under his so-called Burmese way to socialism, to near the bottom of the UN list of the world's poorest states.

He ordered the end of the Burmese way and the introduction of a market economy after the restoration council took power. Cities looked more prosperous, with goods stacked on market shelves, and some entrepreneurs are getting rich, but the market has fuelled corruption among military leaders.

General Ne Win nowadays lives as a virtual recluse in a heavily guarded residence on Inya Lake in Rangoon, on the other side from where Daw Suu Kyi is held under armed guard.

As Orwell portrayed an unscrupulous old man in his 1930s novel, *Burmese Days*: "It was time now to be making ready for the next world — in short, to begin building pagodas." General Ne Win, who perhaps feels his mortality, has now done just that, erecting a temple next to golden-domed Shwedagon pagoda.

UN office in Kabul wrecked

From Christopher Thomas
in Islamabad

KABUL came under rocket and artillery attack for the fifteenth consecutive day yesterday as the power struggle between government and rebel forces intensified.

Most of Afghanistan enjoys peace of sorts but the capital is being pulverised in a many-sided contest for supremacy. There is no effective government, no electricity, no running water, no police force and no telephone service.

All or most aid organisations are expected to pull out of the city. The building that houses the UN High Commissioner for Refugees was severely damaged last night in a direct hit. Nobody was injured.

The government is attempting to drive out Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, leader of the Hezb-i-Islami rebel faction. Pakistan is alarmed that the worsening chaos could spill across the border into the North West Frontier Province, which is predominantly Pathan. Mr Hekmatyar is the most prominent Pathan leader and Islamabad fears that he may try to revive the idea of a separate homeland called Pashtunistan, straddling the Afghan-Pakistan border.

☐ **Arabs arrested:** Authorities in eastern Afghanistan have arrested more than a dozen Arabs on suspicion of their involvement in the assassination of three UN workers and an engineer early this week. The gunmen fired indiscriminately, killing the Afghan drivers of two vehicles. Tony Bullard, a Briton, and J. A. van Hoeflaken, a Dutch water engineer. *(AFP)*

Space mirror sheds new light on Earth

By Nick Nuttall, Technology Correspondent

THE possibilities of lighting darker parts of the globe from space, and flying across the solar system on sunbeams, have moved an important step closer.

Russia yesterday that it had deployed a 33ft-wide space mirror which, just before dawn, lit parts of Europe in a thin, weak, shaft of sunlight travelling from France across to Gomel in Belorussia. The 10lb fan-like structure, made of plastic coated in aluminium, was unfurled at 5.22 GMT from the back of a Progress supply rocket as it left the Mir space station.

Apart from focusing light, such a structure could be used as a sail to propel a spacecraft at about 242,000mph. Initial reports said that cloud cover had ruined the seven-minute light show. But later observers in several areas reported seeing the reflected sunlight, estimated to be the equivalent power of up to five moons, as it sped over Europe in a band 2.4 miles wide.

Meteorologists on the Zugspitze, Germany's highest mountain, said: "It was very bright and passed very quickly". Witnesses in Toulouse described the effect as resembling "two luminous diamonds ... passing through the sky."

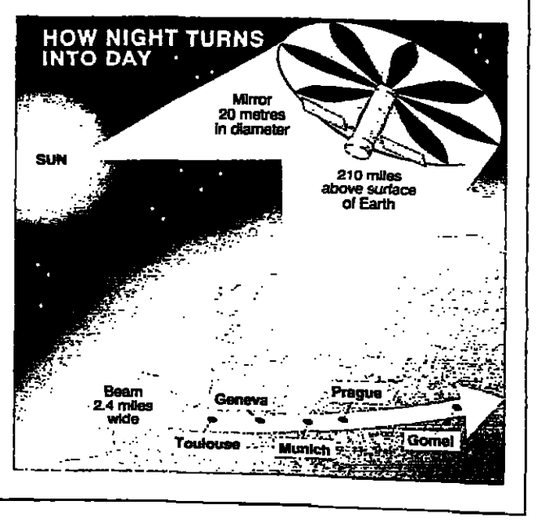
Viktor Blagov, deputy flight director at ground control in Moscow, said Gennadi Manakov and Aleksandr Poleshchuk, cosmonauts on the Mir space station, had filmed the light and transmitted pictures to Earth.

Western backers had been sought but doubted that the project was technically feasible. In the end, the Banner mission, orchestrated by the space agency NPO Energia, was funded by Russian companies, including a car and natural gas firm whose names have been written on the sail.

Phil Clark, editor of *World Wide Satellite Launches*, said yesterday: "They have been talking about this mission for donkeys' years but they have not had the money. They are digging out all their ideas to see if the West bites".

The mission follows an idea first proposed in the 1920s by Herman Oberth, a German scientist. By proving that a wafer-thin space mirror can be unfurled, kept open and used to focus sunlight on to Earth, engineers believe that one day several larger mirrors could be placed permanently in orbit to light regions such as Siberia and Canada which, during the winter months, are almost permanently in darkness. It has also been suggested that sunlight could be focused at night on remote disaster areas to help relief and rescue workers after, say, an earthquake or an airline accident.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Belorussia ratifies Start pact

Minsk: Parliament in the former Soviet republic of Belorussia ratified the Start 1 nuclear disarmament treaty at a closed session yesterday.

Deputies leaving the chamber said the pact, signed between the United States and Soviet Union in 1991, had been approved after a heated debate. No details were available on the vote. *(Reuter)*

Haiti failure

Miami: A United Nations special envoy left Haiti after failing to reach agreement with the military-backed government over plans to restore to power the democratically elected president, Jean Bertrand Aristide.

Toll rises

Manila: The estimated death toll from the eruption of Mount Mayon rose to 67. The authorities were preparing for the possible evacuation of thousands still living in the volcano's shadow as fears of a further eruption grew. *(AFP)*

Heat kills 12

Sydney: At least 12 people have died from exhaustion and dehydration in a heatwave in southern and eastern Australia, with temperatures reaching 113F in places.

Second chance

Boston: Swiss doctors have used the same human heart in two successive transplant operations, with the second recipient, who had previously had four heart attacks, remaining healthy for a year. *(Reuter)*

Death charges

Ankara: Turkey has accused an Islamic fundamentalist murder ring with Iranian links of carrying out three political killings. But it stopped short of directly accusing Tehran of responsibility. *(Reuter)*

So sorry

Tokyo: Japan's public television network aired an unusual two-minute apology after admitting it faked much of a documentary on the remote Nepalese region of Mustang. *(AP)*

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Cancellation of talks raises doubts over Middle East process

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM

■ Palestinians hailed the postponement of peace negotiations as a victory. It poses a challenge for the new US Secretary of State

THE future of the 15-month-old Middle East peace process was cast into doubt yesterday after several sets of multilateral negotiations due to resume next week were postponed indefinitely.

Israeli and Palestinian officials confirmed that America, co-sponsor of the talks, would not be issuing invitations for at least three of the five multilateral rounds, due to resume this month, because of doubts over Arab participation after the deportation of Palestinians.

The news was greeted as a victory by the 396 Palestinian exiles stranded in no man's land, who claimed the Arab participants in the negotiations would continue to boycott the process until Israel allowed them to return home. "The postponement is a victory for the Arab stand and a victory for the deportees," said Abdul Aziz al-Rantisi, head of the makeshift camp at Marj az-Zahour. "Our spirits are very, very high. The men are not looking at when they will go back as much as they are looking at how they will defeat Yitzhak Rabin [the Israeli prime minister] and close the door on further deportations."

Evi Manor, Israel's foreign ministry spokesman, said: "We are very sorry about the delays because a very important element in negotiations is sticking to the schedule." Palestinians and Israelis were told by the State Department that the next rounds of talks on economics, due to resume in Rome on Tuesday, and on arms control, scheduled for Washington on Wednesday, were cancelled.

A third round of negotiations on refugees, which had been scheduled for February 17, was also postponed, while the fate of two other sessions, on water resources in Geneva on February 15 and the environment in Tokyo on February 22, remained in doubt.

Although the cancellation of the multilateral talks is certainly a blow to the prospects of the peace process, the status of the main bilateral negotiations, due to resume between Israel and Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and the Palestinians this month was unclear. Hanan Ashrawi, spokesman for the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, insisted that a resumption of the talks would depend on Israel's full compliance with UN Security Council resolution 799, which demands the immediate repatriation of all the Palestinian deportees.

The Arab stand has landed Warren Christopher, the American Secretary of State, with his first big challenge: how to keep the peace process going more than a year after it was launched by James Baker, his predecessor.

Mrs Ashrawi is expected to travel to Washington in the coming days for talks at the State Department. She will be followed next week by Shimon Peres, the Israeli foreign minister. If those contacts fail to break the impasse, it is possible that Mr Christopher will come out to the region in an attempt to resolve the parties' differences.

Quite aside from the political hurdles facing the peace process, diplomats gave warning that there were also some religious impediments to an early resumption of dialogue. The Muslim holy month of Ramadan begins on February 24. That will be followed soon afterwards by the Jewish holiday of Passover, which starts early in April.



Expelled from Israel: Rickie Kendall and her daughter Hope, from Hope, Idaho, at a press conference in Jerusalem after being denied immigration visas into Israel. The Kendalls, with Gary and Shirley Beresford, who hold British passports but come from South Africa, were given until February 20 to leave Israel because they belong to the Messianic Jews sect (Richard Beeston writes). Richard Kendall claimed that the families were being victimised by the authorities because of their belief that Jesus was the Messiah. The Beresfords said that they have spent the past six years in Israel trying to become citizens. "We both identify with our Jewish people and the state of Israel," said Mr Beresford, whose two sons served in the Israeli army's elite paratroop unit. "We have no desire to remove ourselves from the House of Israel nor from our Judaism, but we have the right to hold personal beliefs and ideas ... We appeal to the people of Israel not to deport us and not to allow this injustice to take place." Although Israel's law of return grants automatic citizenship to anybody who can prove he is at least a quarter Jewish by birth — and the two families qualify for citizenship by the birth criterion — recent legal rulings and the increasing power of ultra-orthodox parties in government have made it difficult for some Jews to continue to live in Israel, particularly members of the Messianic Jews. Two high court decisions have ruled that the families are no longer regarded as Jews by the state.

President returns to campaign trail

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Clinton had a win some, lose some day yesterday as he pressed ahead with an ambitious agenda of social and political reforms.

On the down side, he was being forced into a drastic scaling back of his much-touted scheme of national service for Americans students to pay back college loans as teachers, police officers or other community work. He was also rebuffed by fellow Democrats in Congress on his ideas for revising campaign financing to reduce the cost of elections.

On the bright side, a bill that will enable American workers to take up to 12 weeks off without pay for the birth of a child or a serious illness in the family was proceeding rapidly through Congress.

Although the road was far from smooth, the Clinton administration seemed to have a firmer grip on where it was going than during its first days in office when its course was strewn with the Zoe Baird and homosexuals-in-uniform debates.

Mr Clinton has also decided to make his first presidential foray beyond Washington. Next Wednesday, he will go to Detroit for a campaign-style town meeting, a format in which he excels. The president will answer questions from Americans in a studio and others linked by satellite. He may well try to prepare them for the expected tax increases he will announce one week later, on February 17, to a joint session of Congress.

There could be anger that his promise of national service in exchange for college tuition has fallen on the ground of cost. It will still happen, White House officials said yesterday, but will start slowly and may not be fully operational for five to ten years — a timetable not mentioned by Mr Clinton during the campaign.

Senate Republicans were trying, without much hope of success, to delay the family-leave bill by attaching an amendment that would enforce the ban on homosexuals in the military which Mr Clinton wants to lift. The bill had been twice vetoed by President Bush.

Mr Clinton has eased up on two trade union restrictions imposed by Mr Bush before he left office, the first friendly gesture towards organised labour since Ronald Reagan entered the White House 12 years ago. One measure had forced government contractors to post notices telling non-union workers they were not required to join a union and could not be forced to pay dues for political activities they opposed. The other barred union-only labour agreements on government contracts.

Clinton plans to halve troop levels in Europe by 1996

FROM WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU IN WASHINGTON

TWO weeks into his administration, President Clinton has launched his second assault on the American military with a plan to cut defence spending by about $8.3 billion (£6 billion) in the next fiscal year, on top of the savings envisaged by the Bush presidency.

Mr Clinton's cuts package includes halving the number of American troops, currently about 200,000, stationed in Europe by 1996. Overall, the number of troops on active duty is expected to be cut from 1.8 million to 1.4 million during the president's four-year term of office. President Bush had set 1.6 million as the minimum consistent with defence requirements.

The cuts form part of Mr Clinton's general economic strategy of switching funds from the military to the civilian sectors and to finance an ambitious programme for recovery. Mr Clinton will announce the details of his economic package during his first State of the Union address on February 17.

The military spending cuts, which will lead to a substantial reduction in American troops by the end of the year, have provoked a subdued reaction from the military after last week's outrage over the president's plan to scrap a ban on homosexuals serving in the armed forces. The forces carry less influence over the question of defence spending than that of homosexual servicemen. Expenditure cuts have broad public appeal.

The new administration also envisages shifting the balance of defence spending in favour of hi-tech projects, which may attract more funds. These programmes include converting military industries into civilian industries, and a few military ventures, such as the Seawolf submarine. The shift in emphasis was underlined by the appointment of William Perry, co-director of the Centre for International Security and Arms Control at Stanford University, and a defence technology expert, as deputy defence secretary.

The defence budget is expected to be reduced in real terms from a present $267.8 billion to $259.3 billion in the next fiscal year, which starts on October 1.

Les Aspin, the defence secretary, has asked the army to cut $2.5 billion from its budget, the navy $3 billion and the air force $2.8 billion. In addition, spending on the Strategic Defence Initiative, known as the "Star Wars" programme, which includes the Patriot missile system, would be cut by $2.5 billion.

However, the total figure represented by these cuts, at $10.8 billion, is thought to be unrealistic as it includes $2.5 billion in scheduled "administrative savings", which the Bush presidency had falsely hoped to achieve, leaving a net saving of $8.3 billion.

In addition, the spending reductions are likely to be smaller because of the Democrat administration's proposals to commit extra funds to various high-technology and "tanks-into-ploughshares" conversion programmes.

The package amounts to a first step to fulfilling Mr Clinton's election pledge of cutting military spending by a total of $60 billion during his term of office.

Leon Panetta, the director of the Office of Management and Budget, has been involved in discussions with collegues on how to achieve the proposed cuts. The $8.3 billion savings plan is the first step in what is likely to be an annual round of defence cuts, aimed at fulfilling President Clinton's campaign goal.

In a terse letter, Mr Aspin has asked defence chiefs to come up with proposals for the prescribed cuts by Monday. The defence secretary has only a few weeks until he submits the final proposal to Mr Panetta, who will incorporate the savings in the budget, which President Clinton will be presenting to Congress on March 23.

In practice, defence spending cuts rarely turn out as first envisaged. Defence officials have confirmed that substantial cuts are on the way, but caution against placing too great an emphasis on precise figures. Instead, they prefer to speak in terms of a range from $6 billion to $11 billion.

□ **Moscow:** Russia has dismantled all tactical nuclear missiles on its ships, submarines and navy aircraft, in accordance with a decision which was taken in 1991 by Mikhail Gorbachev, the Soviet president, the defence ministry said yesterday. The Pentagon has estimated that Moscow had 17,000 such weapons. *(Reuter)*



Aspin: has told forces of spending cuts needed

It's not a real zoo in there

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN NEW YORK

THE New York Zoological Society has decided to drop the word zoo from its vocabulary in favour of "wildlife conservation park" in deference to the sensibilities of the 10,000 animals contained in such places throughout New York.

Zoo, short for "zoological garden", is now considered too insulting a word for official use, since its secondary definition in *The American Heritage Dictionary* is "a place marked by rampant confusion and disorder", as in "this place is a complete zoo". Zoos, the society claims, are not at all zoo-like.

"We are not confused or disordered," said William Conway, president of the Zoological Society, adding that the word zoo would be replaced with "terminology that reflects preserving life". He also pointed out that zoos (the name may still be used until Monday) are only one part of the work of the society, which funds 158 research and conservation projects around the world. For the sake of consistency, the 98-year-old society is changing its own name to NYZS/The Wildlife Conservation Society.

The decision to drop the word comes after two years of bitter debate in wildlife circles over whether zoo is really a pejorative term, and whether it matters if it is. Jungle, for example, can be an equally negative term as in "it's a jungle out there", but nobody is suggesting renaming the Amazon jungle "heavily forested tropical area with important ozone implications in South America, to be enjoyed equally by *Homo sapiens* and other species". Well, not yet.

Others argue that a wildlife park suggests a place where animals roam free, or even in some parts of the world a game park where animals may be hunted for food. Wildlife translates as meat in some languages. That is not the impression the zoological society wishes to convey. Mr Conway defends the change of name as a sign of our altered perceptions about protecting endangered animals: "They are high-falutin' words for a high-falutin' objective."

So, from next week, New York's zoos will all become wildlife conservation parks and the largest of all, the Bronx Zoo, will be known as the International Wildlife Conservation Park. Note that the word Bronx has been dropped, presumably since the most dangerous and drug-infested neighbourhood in New York is a bit of a zoo.

So next time you feel your office or home is a zoo, take heart: it is just a wildlife conservation centre.

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What makes the young conservative?

Alice Thomson asks what manner of person will be partying in Southend this weekend



The image: a poster from the Young Conservatives' magazine, *Campaigner*, shows the way the future should look



TIM BISHOP

The reality: party faithful at a YC conference, notorious for being "damn good fun"

They run advertising campaigns in *Viz* magazine, they sell T-shirts emblazoned with a food-stained "I had lunch with Roy Hattersley", and their free magazine, *Campaigner*, has interviews with Lindi St Clair of the Corrective party, and a quiz, "Are you Trendy?".

This weekend, Young Conservatives from across the country will descend on Southend-on-Sea for their annual conference. If the organisers are to be believed, it will be one of the most exciting social raves of the year, with politics by day and parties by night. "Its damn good fun," Adrian McLellan, the chairman of the YCs, says. "You get there on Friday and don't go to sleep again till Sunday."

There will be pompons, cheerleaders, Mexican waves, and balloons will descend from the ceiling of the Cliffs Pavilion for the entertainment of the YCs. About 800 of the 9,000 members, aged from 17 to 35, are expected.

But if it is such fun, why aren't all the young pulling on their Vivienne Westwood corsets or cheesecloth flairs and boogying on down to Southend? The problem is, the YCs are seen as deeply untrendy. However hard they try, they are not even hip among those who vote Conservative.

Wandering around Covent Garden in central London, it is hard to find many potential recruits. "I couldn't share a drink with them. They are so pompous, self-satisfied and smug," Ed Simms, 29, the marketing director of Austravel, says. "I don't see how you can be young *and* Conservative," Laura Brasher, a student aged 22, says. "It makes me embarrassed I went to private school. Its the unacceptable face of the young middle class, isn't it?" says her friend Cirsty Bell, 23.

Those who see YCs as a slightly warped social phenomenon imagine them dressed up in black tie and ball gowns, listening to Suzy Quattro. Others think of them as latter-day Mosleyites, politically intense because they are socially awkward — have you ever met a YC who can dance?

Mike Soutar, the editor of *Smash Hits*, the music magazine, thinks antipathy towards young Conservatives is part of a wider youth malaise. "Most young people have no interest in politics. With all those grey, bland, Identikit leaders, politics is seen as absolutely not the glamorous thing to be involved in," he says. "The recession is so deep that most young have given up thinking anything will get them out."

For a long time, all was not well in the nursery. The YCs got a reputation for consistently going beyond the bounds of good taste: there were "Hang Nelson Mandela" badges, they travelled to Nicaragua to visit the Contras, and then there was the "Get Well" card which they sent to General Pinochet in Chile. Even the Conservative party's senior managers were worried about the unpredictability of the youth wing. In the late 1980s, the in-fighting between left and right was intense.

Youth conferences were thick with personal abuse and allegations of dirty tricks, as baby politicians wielded their mobile telephones and plotted against each other.

Last year's conference was dominated by milder accusations of train spotting. This year, John Major has decided he has prior engagements. "There are just too many conferences. He cannot go to them all," an aide says. Even Conservative Central Office's press office shivers slightly when you mention the YCs.

But are all these accusations fair? Few people have recently attended a Young Conservative conference and, as Mr McLellan, 28, points out, much has changed in the past couple of years. "It irritates me tremendously that they all talk about tweed jackets and hooray Henrys or rabid politicians. The people who join the YCs now vary, from underwriters to the unemployed. I wear casual trousers, an open-necked shirt and baseball cap to conferences," he says, and explains that there are now many young professionals who spread the Tory word round golf clubs and executive dining rooms and who see the YCs as a means of enhancing their career.

Mr McLellan, a sales manager for ATI Laser Printers, joined the YCs when Margaret Thatcher was at the height of her power. "Most recent recruits joined because of Margaret Thatcher. There is no in-fighting now, we all have similar beliefs. We are firmly behind John Major, but we are more radical," he says. "We want further privatisation, voucher systems for school children's education and we are anti-Maastricht." Most are also avid believers in the free market righting all wrongs and advocate minimalist government, abolishing the welfare state and market reduction.

Mr McLellan does not merely want to be a Member of Parliament but a cabinet minister and an "implementer". If sheer drive has anything to do with it, he will probably get there. He gets up at 6 am every day, goes to bed at 2 am and covers about 750 miles a week going to talk at YC meetings. "As YCs, we get to network with ministers, MPs and local councillors and meet the movers and shakers."

Eleanor Elston, 19, the Bexhill and Battle YC chairman, was so disheartened when the then Mrs Thatcher was ousted as party leader that she decided to do something and set up a YC branch. "We go ten-pin bowling, hold discos and discuss current affairs. You want to shake young people sometimes. They are so apathetic and laid back. They criticise the government but they don't bother to question the issues or think of any alternatives," she says.

Conor Pickering, a cords and tweed jacket man, represents the second strand of the Conservative youth movement, Conservative Students, which has 10,000 members and 120 branches. "Most students join for the active social life. We don't sit up discussing Marx until 4 am, we go out to restaurants. And we don't agree with the way that student politics are run where everyone has to be a member of the union and AGMs are taken up discussing the rights of Nicaraguan coffee growers," Mr Pickering, 22, says. "Noble causes are all very well but the students' union should be there to champion the rights of students."

> YCs are seen as deeply untrendy. However hard they try, they are not even hip among those who vote Conservative

Fewer student members want to become MPs. "I just want to earn a large amount of money," he says. Gayle Gander, 22, who studies politics at Brunel University, is another who does not want to be an MP. "I joined at the freshers' fair because they looked fun. It has helped me to be motivated. Now I would like to set up my own business."

John Major started his political career by setting up the Brixton YCs, and nearly one-third of Conservative MPs were once Young Conservatives. As the YCs sharpen up their image, it looks as though membership might once again help, rather than hinder, a potential candidate.

David Amess, 40, is a former YC and is now MP for Basildon. "In my day, the Young Conservatives had 100,000 members but it suffered from the image of being a marriage bureau and full of upper class twits," he says. "Now they are professionals who work hard and play hard."

He believes that YCs have got over their problems and are now a happy, broad church. "My colleagues are beginning to value the Young Conservatives again. They do a lot of the footslogging in elections and they are a useful think-tank."

Harry Phibbs is a former wildchild YC who was sued by Norman Tebbit on behalf of the Conservative party, and was barred in his attempt to become chairman of the YCs after he accused Harold Macmillan of being a war criminal. "The YCs have always been important to the party, in that they attract people who wouldn't otherwise participate and help those with political aspirations, as long as they don't get caught up to mischief, but they are much slicker these days," Mr Phibbs says.

Now, the Young Conservatives have turned professional. They have created leadership schools and hold training sessions on the media and public speaking. Many are advising their senior constituents on how to run campaigns.

They are not grey. In fact, with their bow ties, leather jackets and lack of self-doubt, they make flamboyant figures. They may be boorish but they have a simple and powerful rhetorical logic. Their conference slogan is "Young Conservatives — The Next Generation". With numbers dwindling in all other political parties' youth sections, they could be the next political generation unless the rest get out of their clubbing gear and on to their soapboxes.

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Great Western Revived

For some, the railway franchises announced this week recall the golden age of steam

Nobody born since January 1, 1948, could possibly remember the Great Western Railway, the legendary "GWR". Mr Major, however, wants to bring the company back to life, as one of the first franchises in the privatisation of British Rail.

The old Great Western used to run from Paddington to Penzance, with branches to Bristol, Birmingham, and the better part of Wales. Its trains, made up of carriages painted in chocolate and cream, were pulled by dark-green engines with funny brass scuttles on the boiler, and evocative names like "Clun Castle", and "Lord of the Isles".

The Great Western is the company most favoured by railway buffs, and its locomotives can be glimpsed at Didcot by those en route to Oxford, and on the Dart and Severn Valley Railways.

What was it the GWR had that its rival companies did not? Cynics would say "better public relations", especially in the 1930s, the last golden age of the train. Remember the "Cheltenham Flyer", the world's fastest train? Romantics, on the other hand, will point to the destinations served. There were the countless photographs of King and Castle Class engines steaming along the south Devon coast, the waves of the ocean lapping against the locomotives' driving wheels. To travel first class on the Cornish Riviera before the war was the equivalent of flying to New York on Concorde. It had style.



Puffed up: a GWR loco leaves Paddington station

But the Great Western was more than a mainline railway, with the "Bristolian" speeding between Paddington and Temple Meads along a billiard-table flat track built by Isambard Kingdom Brunel. It was a railway of branch lines of the kind made famous by Sir John Betjeman. Single-line railways over which ran ancient engines pulling a train of three coaches, stopping at "halts" along the way, standing in country stations, simmering like brass kettles in the summer sun.

Towards the end of the 1930s, other railway companies began to overtake the Great Western in popular esteem. The London and North Eastern Railway, LNER, built streamlined Pacific class locomotives, and its "Mallard" set the world speed record; the LMS, London Midland Scottish built the "Coronation Scot", and the race to Scotland between the LMS and the LNER stole the headlines.

But the GWR made a virtue out of its refusal to change. Its carriages had not changed colour since before the kaiser's war, and its engines, new in the early 1900s, looked much the same in 1939. In fact the Castles and Kings survived, with modest improvement, until the end of steam.

The GWR was just more efficiently run than its rivals. It was safe, fast and comfortable. As the Rev W. Awdry, the author and train-buff, put it: "There are two ways of running a railway; the Great Western Way and the Wrong Way". This view enabled the traditions of the GWR to survive for at least 20 years after the railways were nationalised in 1948. Indeed, in the early 1960s, with the return of the original liveries, it seemed as if the Great Western had never disappeared.

JULIAN CRITCHLEY

The author is MP for Aldershot.

Life and how to survive it — by John Cleese and Robin Skynner

ALL tickets have been sold for the Times/Dillons forum on February 24, at which John Cleese and Robin Skynner will speak. The forum coincides with the publication of their book *Life and How to Survive It*.

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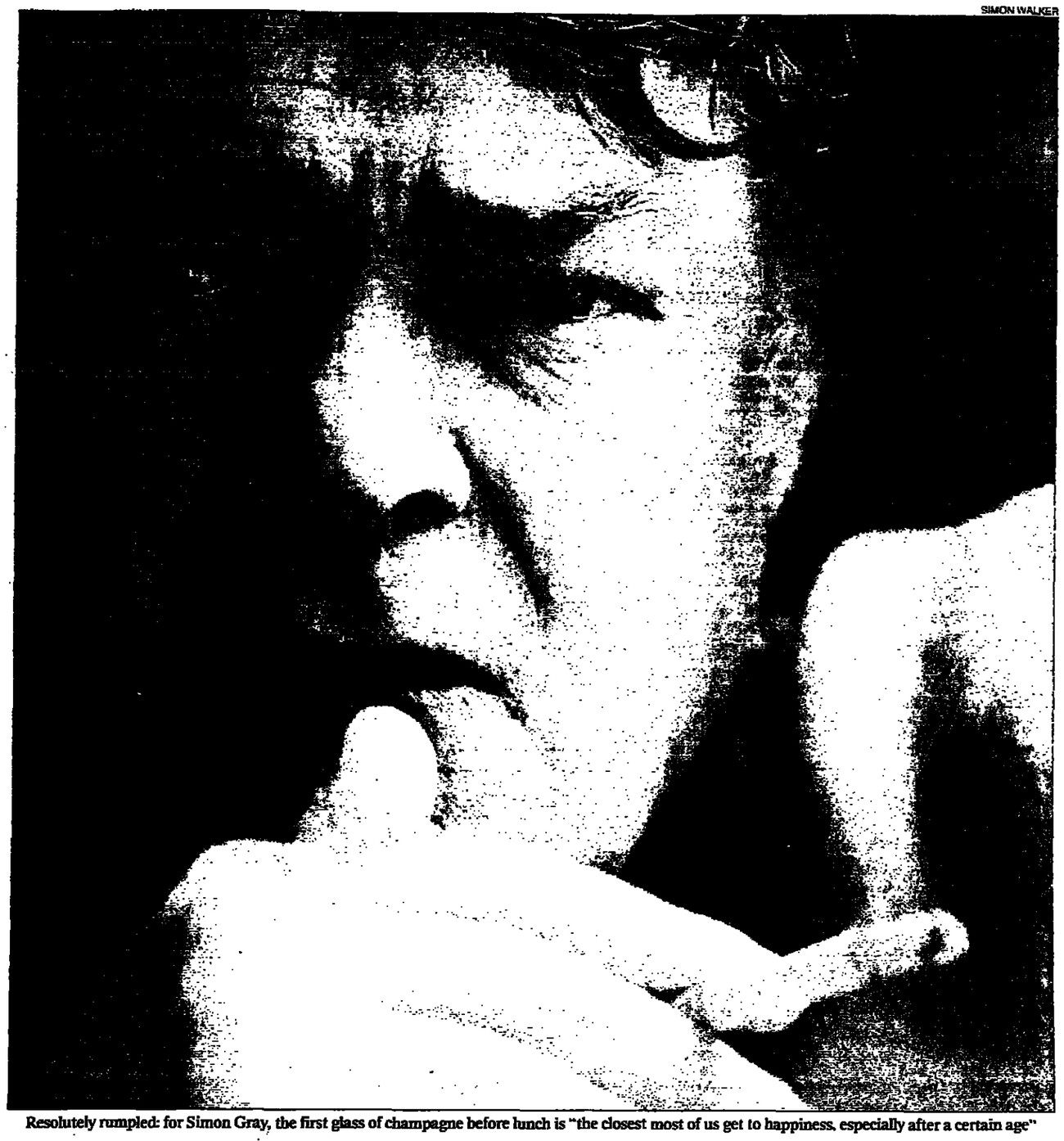
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Exit one friend stage left

Life is a drama for the playwright Simon Gray, famous for his chronicles of the intellectual world. But when drama borrows from life, he finds, people can get hurt



SIMON WALKER

Resolutely rumpled: for Simon Gray, the first glass of champagne before lunch is "the closest most of us get to happiness, especially after a certain age"

If all the world were a stage, and playwrights were the players, there would certainly be plenty of drama: seething conflict, boiling rages, imagined slights, and paranoid loathings of critics. To meet any living playwright — I cannot speak for the dead — is to enjoy, vicariously, lives crowded with tortured incident.

Nobody has written more graphically about the antics of putting on a play than Simon Gray, which made his *Unnatural Pursuits* — the three-hour BBC film of the diary he kept while his *The Common Pursuit* was staged in America — such a pleasure.

Alan Bates's grimacing performance as Gray was monumentally hilarious, among a *galère* of American characters who baffle and appall the *English playwright*. The earnest director, the uptight actors, the lady interviewer mercilessly parodied in a painted Texan who asks inane questions ("What *do* you write with?" "A quill pen") fails to pay the lunch bill, tries to *seduce him, drives him off in* her car when dead drunk and then prints a poisonous piece saying "Go home, Brit".

So I feel I am treading on egg-shells when we meet in a quiet west London hotel. Gray's regular haven of solitude. I have seen *him there* before, contentedly lunching alone. But lately, he says, celebrities have started appearing. "I keep seeing Elvis Costello in the bar," he says, "droning on about his string quartet. Perhaps they could put up a sign 'No semi-bearded men with glasses and nasal voices'."

He keeps theatrical hours, working till 3am, rising at noon. Afternoons this week have been spent pleasurably at a nearby recreation centre where his *Quartermaine's Terms* is in rehearsal, with Edward Fox recreating his poignant Quartermaine, Peter Barkworth, Clive Francis, Sarah Badel: and Kevin Billington directing. They open at Guildford on Tuesday.

Gray has a resolutely rumpled appearance. He does not drive a car or put on a dinner jacket, except when receiving awards, though he disapproves of awards. After years of living in suburban Highgate, with wife, son and daughter, he left home and wife (painful subject: keep off) three years ago and now lives with Victoria Rothschild in Holland Park. He no longer takes "bottled inspiration" from Glenfiddich — doctor's orders — but as he says, the first glass of champagne before lunch is "the closest most of us get to happiness, especially after a certain age".

To be habitually portrayed by Alan Bates — who, even when dementedly drinking, smoking, shambling about *and hallucinating, manages never* to be truly repulsive, is lucky. Gray admits: "I mean, it could have been Bela Lugosi." On Bates's part, no greater concession can be imagined than to smoke as furiously as Bates (a former smoker in real life) has to when playing Gray. The two are close friends ever since *Butley* and *Otherwise Engaged*: Bates has always spoken Gray's lines as if they were his own.

THE VALERIE GROVE INTERVIEW



The old slanging match between dramatists and their critics is a perennial source of fascination. Each faction believes the other to be emotionally warped in some way. Gray duelled publicly with James Fenton over a review entitled The Public Suicide of Simon Gray, later taking his revenge in the *Times Literary Supplement*. John Osborne's "1st Battalion British Playwrights' Mafia" was a gesture of mass vengeance. David Hare wrote an open letter to Frank Rich, the Butcher of Broadway, accusing him of "personal nastiness" after his review closed Hare's *Secret Rapture*. Two years ago Gray's *Old Flames* on BBC2 featured a list of murder victims with familiar first-night names: Wardle, Shulman, Coveney, Nightingale ... an in-joke which all could share.

Perhaps we should not be surprised when even writers who can be merciless prove that they also bleed. But now there is a new element of *disaffection. Gray and Bates* are two-thirds of a chronically successful triumvirate, of which the third man is Harold Pinter. Pinter directing Bates in a Gray play is the theatrical dream ticket, ever since Pinter persuaded Bates to play the lead in *Butley* in 1971.

Alas, 22 years on, silence has fallen between the two playwrights. In Gray's book, *An Unnatural Pursuit*, on which the BBC film was based, he was dogged everywhere he went by the reputation of the greatest living playwright, his friend. When a fringe company performs Gray's play, it is Pinter's presence at the theatre that thrills the company; and when he faces an audience at an American college it is Pinter they ask questions about, not Gray's own work. This was a good running joke. Indeed, when the film was first planned, Pinter told Gray he would play himself; and the production hinged on the self-portrayal — which would surely have been a *tour de force*.

Then it turned out that Pinter was too busy preparing to perform in his own *No Man's Land*. So all the names were changed and the Pinter character became "Hector Duff" although it was agreed *the nature of the character* would remain in the same comic mode. As portrayed, Duff was an espouser of causes, self-important and quick to take offence. Alas, although Richard Wilson's performance — an unlovable *characterisation of a po-faced* grandee — did not at all resemble Pinter, it gave offence. Pinter was upset. He wrote to his old friend to say so, and sent copies to others: so the epic rift is public, which Gray finds depressing. (And the curtain falls on a real friendship: Gray was one of two guests at Pinter's wedding.)

"The whole thing," Gray says sadly, "is terribly regrettable."

Such are the hazards of the writer's life, where personal experience and work are so inextricably entangled. Gray's diary "Broadway Malady", about being in New York to write a musical of *Red Shoes* with the aged songwriter Jule Styne, was a narrative masterpiece. But, after it was published in *The Independent on Sunday*, Styne retaliated in *The New York Times*: Gray repudiated Styne's counter-attack. "That diary," Gray says, "did me more harm in America than anything."

If only everyone were as adept as dear Sir John Gielgud is at extricating himself from *faux pas*. Before Sir John did the televised *Quartermaine's Terms*, Gray recalls: "He said to my agent, 'I've been sent that new Simon Gray play — dreadful, dreadful' and then he had to face me, when he'd agreed to do it, over lunch." Whereupon Gielgud said he'd completely misunderstood the play: he thought it was about a prep school teacher.

Gray's work is seen as a hymn to Englishness: but in youth he felt like an outsider, having been whisked off to Canada in the war, where he and his brother, two "nannied, lisping middle-class English boys pitched among tough Canadian youths in lumberjack shirts". They came home with that north American jug-eared, crewcut look. The re-Anglicisation began when a schoolmaster named Foster one day read aloud, dramatically, from *Great Expectations*. Gray reveres Dickens to this day. From Westminster he went to university at Dalhousie *in Nova Scotia*, which he says gave him a far better education than Cambridge later did, despite his veneration for F. R. Leavis, with whom he had a gentleman's agreement: "He wouldn't pester me for work, and I wouldn't pester him with my work."

For 20 years Gray taught English at Queen Mary College, London, until writing took over and he gave up the day job. "If I'd known," he adds, "in what a horrendous direction English studies were going, I would have stayed on, just to block the job from some imbecile." He thinks the damage to the study of Eng lit by currently fashionable dogma amounts to "a calculated conspiracy to raise an underclass of illiterates who write in a language incomprehensible to anyone who hasn't been trained to be a deconstructuralist — a way of murdering intelligence."

Gray will not be going back to Clinton's smoke-free America if he can help it. He was there six months ago directing a play that was steaming powerfully along in the previews: "And then Frank Rich's review came out — and we closed in 20 minutes."

Never mind: later this year sees a new Gray play, *Says I, Says He*, a two-hander about the springing of George Blake. Meanwhile on Sunday night his *Femme Fatale*, is on BBC2. And *Quartermaine's Terms* will move into the Comedy Theatre directly after Pinter's fixed run of *No Man's Land*. It was of course Pinter who originally directed *Quartermaine*; but since Kevin Billington is Pinter's brother-in-law, it's still all in the family.

Fighting fear with innocence

Sally Trench, below, says 'do-gooders' in Bosnia do saves lives



'Keep the situation low-key and you might survive. Remember you have no friends here'

I have been to Bosnia and back. If I had known nothing of what I was about to enter into with a convoy of food and medical equipment, then ignorance and innocence would have been a good substitute for courage. As it was, from my first trip in December last year, I knew enough to expect the worst.

Baroness Chalker, the overseas aid minister, is right when she says there are many "do-gooders" in Bosnia who do not know what they are walking into, and I would not recommend anyone to go *there* without first finding out how best they can help. But it is my belief that without the "mavericks", thousands would be dying in Bosnia.

My second trip, in January, was with a small charity, and not one of the established agencies which Lady Chalker suggests do-gooders *should work with*. Our four trucks, set out from Dover carrying four tons of aid, and eventually we crawled down the coast of Croatia to Split. We attended the daily United Nations press conference to hear the latest details from the war zone. No one, we were informed, should travel at night.

Our destination behind the *front line* across the mined mountain roads to the isolated town of Travnik, where there was a desperate shortage of food, via Siroki Briejg and Mostar, which were both being shelled. If we had left the aid in a warehouse in Split, we could not be sure *that it would reach* those who so needed it. So we decided to leave the next morning, in spite of the young army captain's reservations.

We crossed the front line in frightened apprehension. The rules were basic. Never get out of your vehicle: that is easy target practice. Never wind down your window: just show your British passport. Never enter into conversation: shrug your shoulders and smile at the 22 checkpoints. We are British: peaceful, non-military, non-aggressive. Keep the soldiers happy, with bribes if necessary. Keep the situation low-key and you might survive.

Remember you have no friends here: the Croatians are mining the roads to block the advancing Serbs. The Serbs are trigger-happy and reluctant to let aid reach *the Bosnians. And the Chetniks, in* the mountains, will hijack the convoy for the food they are desperately short of. *Everyone* is the enemy.

We drove on through the mortar fire, having dropped our first load of aid at a monastery in Siroki Briejg which cared for 500 refugee children. We crossed the makeshift bridge over the dam, its four planks bending under our weight. We all knew we were sitting targets. We could see the heavy artillery in the mountains above us. We sped along the road, to where the Serbs had shot a small child and left her lying so the next vehicle that came along was forced to stop. The driver was a Canadian photographer who made the mistake of leaving his car to help. They shot him in the back.

Ten miles from Sarajevo, at a village called Tarcin, there were 20,000 refugees. They had been constantly shelled for five days and nights. All the roads to Travnik were mined or blown up. We were resigned to going no further, so took our aid to the Tarcin warehouse and, under mortar fire, in the darkness, formed a human chain to unload our food. The warehouse was almost empty — the Bosnian refugees told us that they had only enough flour left to make bread for two days.

On returning to Split, UN officials asked us about the military situation so that they could update their facts for the following day's press conference. Lady Chalker says that the army in Bosnia told her about several "very nearly disastrous situations", where independent aid workers have put soldiers' lives at risk because the soldiers had to help them.

In our time behind the front line, we saw only two British vehicles at a Serb checkpoint, where we were harassed by two dozen armed soldiers. We signalled to the British for help: they refused to leave their vehicles, waved and scuttled away. The army captain appeared mortified when we told him this tale, and he *apologised*.

We were told that the road back to the Austrian border was under shelling at Zadar and that the Croatians were laying mines. But we were too emotionally and physically exhausted to care. I led the convoy, driving like the clappers now that our trucks were empty. Taking a sharp left at speed, the trucks behind flashed and hooted me. I had missed the sign declaring the road was mined. I was so tired that instead of carefully reversing, I practised my three-point turn. Incredibly, I survived and raced towards the Austrian border.

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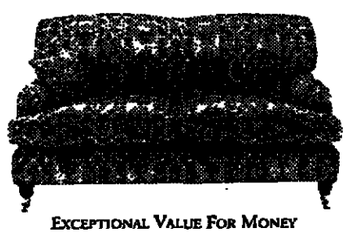
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Janet Daley



■ The appeal of workfare to Tory backbenchers is based more on instinct than a grasp of economic realities

The prime minister, beleaguered on all sides by dire economic news, has floated off into the happier realms of abstraction. His government having been charged with two basic flaws — being incompetent and having no ideas — John Major has clearly decided that the latter is easier to remedy. Indeed, there was a different idea in virtually every paragraph of his Carlton Club speech. Unfortunately, coming as they did in a single-file procession, it was possible for the later ones neatly to contradict the earlier: an end to deference but more reverence for the monarchy, and so on.

The idea attracting most interest contradicted Mr Major's most basic premise. Asserting first that true Conservatives do not believe in "big government", he then went on to suggest a classic piece of paternalistic manipulation. "Workfare" is not a new concept. Dismantling the dependency culture by putting dole recipients to work was a proposition put forward by Thatcherite think tanks. After all, Britain had a dependency culture when Americans were still in ideological short trousers. Sir Keith Joseph (as he then was) railed at the collapse of moral fibre caused by the welfare state when Bill Clinton was but a beardless draft-dodger.

> Is this really a punitive cure for the work-shy?

In the British tradition of not capitalising on our inventions, working for your dole money was only exploited for the mass market by more enterprising politicians across the pond. Like many of our own innovations, it is now having to be re-imported under a foreign label. The furious reaction of Labour spokesmen to what was only a cautious toe in the water from Mr Major, would suggest that this was a full-blown neanderthal Tory policy designed to dismantle the very notion of a welfare state. But whether or not this is a remotely Conservative idea at all depends on how it is described.

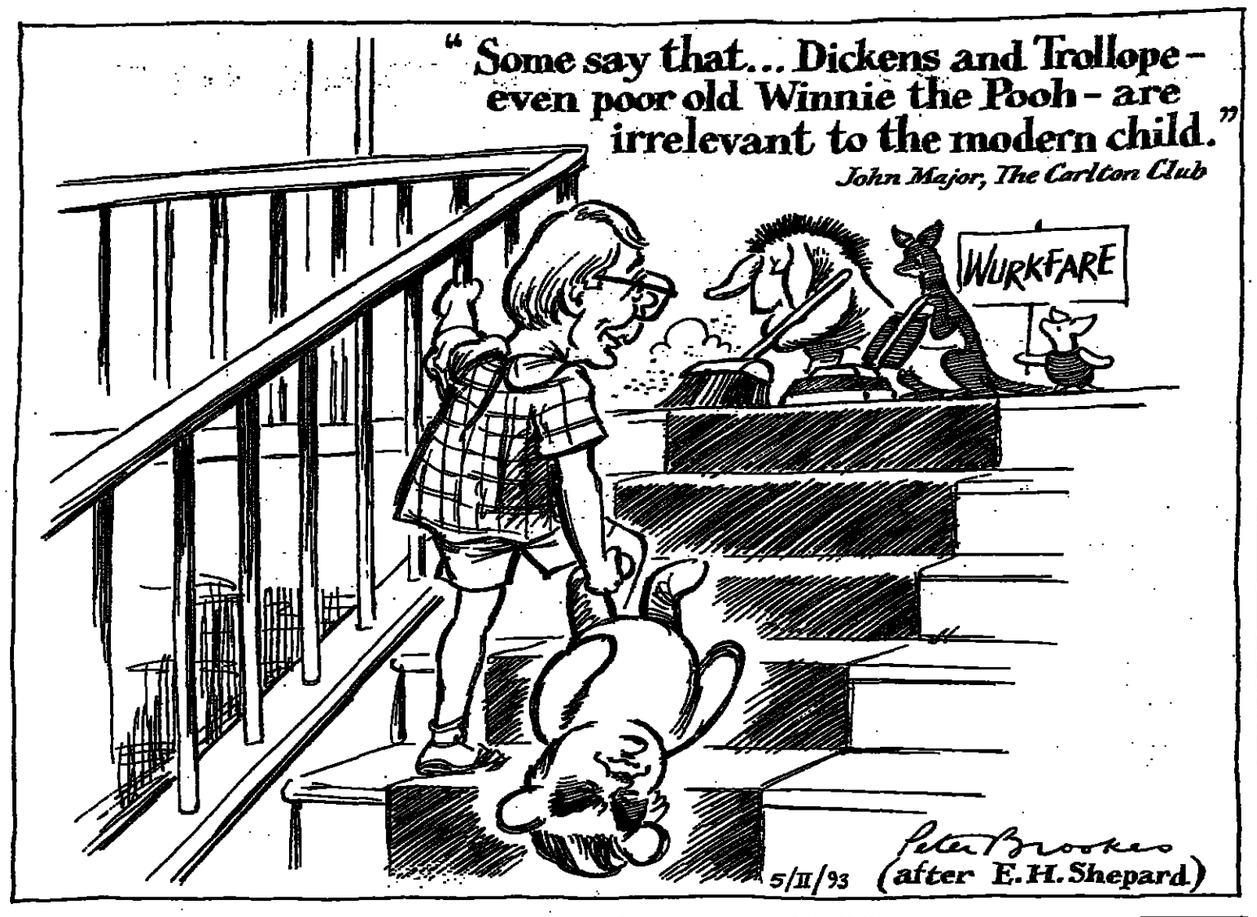
If it is seen as a strike against the "something-for-nothing" society — a rousing summons to work rather than shirk — a clampdown on scrounging dole addicts who avoid making any contribution to economic life, then its appeal to Tory backbenchers is considerable. But that appeal is based more on inchoate moral instincts than a grasp of the economic reality which is required to underpin the kind of society in which they believe. For there is an equally persuasive account of workfare which smacks more of the social engineer than of the workhouse.

In the United States, the tradition of public works schemes being created to employ the jobless began with Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal. Projects like the Tennessee Valley Authority hired thousands of construction workers to bring hydro-electric power to a backward rural area. The Civilian Conservation Corps involved unemployed youth in planting trees — one of the very tasks, by coincidence, suggested by Lord Tebbit for a British workfare scheme.

Roosevelt was idolised by a generation of working-class people in America who saw him as their saviour, and loathed by the plutocratic classes who saw him as the devil incarnate. In truth, he was simply a patrician Fabian. What he indisputably was not, was a rampant free-marketeer. Making useful activity for the idle hands of the unemployed was not a punitive cure for the work-shy in Roosevelt's America. It was a humane bit of economic interventionism which red-blooded capitalists detested.

In the Alice in Wonderland of present-day British politics, conservatives of both parties — and radicals of both parties — have more in common with one another than with their own front benches. This helps to explain the paradoxical nature of Mr Major's utterance, cryptic and tentative as it was, and the response to it by the Labour party, shrill and disproportionate as it was. Quite incredibly, Labour's employment spokesman, Frank Dobson, actually praised Mrs Thatcher for having said, "What people want are real jobs in a real economy", which is the sentiment of a true free-market Tory. Unfortunately, he sullied this admirable piece of clear thinking by also saying, "The problem is not that people are unwilling to work. It is that we have a government that is unwilling to *find* them work." (Italics, needless to say, are mine.) So Mr Dobson manages to produce a statement at least as self-cancelling as any of Mr Major's rhetorical pirouettes.

Mr Major, who thinks he is a Conservative, really accepts the post-war consensus that it is up to the government to *find* work for people. Some Labour politicians who think that they are socialists of some sort, believe that anything other than real work is insulting and irrelevant to the real economic life of the market place. The irony — or the tragedy — of British economic life is that half of what everybody is saying is right, or at least coherent. What many people want are real jobs in a real (which is to say, a capitalist) economy. Those who don't are a different sort of social problem who will not march off happily to plant trees any more than they would present themselves for real jobs even if they existed.



Long live the royals

Would you want a Britain in which MPs are the last resort of democracy?

Bernard Levin

Greatly to my own astonishment, I propose to write about the royal family. I do realise, of course, that others have done so before me, and I gather that whole books have been written on the subject; experts in these matters also assure me that in addition to the books there have been a considerable number of newspaper articles as well, so what is there for me to say?

Well, I do have one small advantage, in that I have read none of the books in question — indeed, I am almost sure that I have not so much as opened any of them — and I cannot now remember how long ago it was that I actually finished one of the articles.

This, you must surely agree, is the very best position from which to write about our royalty. The royal family today is subject to a wide variety of problems, though only a very few years ago none of these was widely known about, nor was there anything like the considerable hostility which clearly exists today. (King Farouk of Egypt once said that in a few decades there would be only five kings in the world: the king of England and the kings of spades, hearts, diamonds and clubs. He would not have made that exception if he was jesting today. Indeed, he wouldn't be jesting at all.)

Some of the members of the family have plainly contributed, however understandably, to the hostility or at least the indifference which now greets references to them. Consider only the remarkable number of divorces and separations to which they have been party; probably, if it were an ordinary family visited by the local social services, the lot of them would by now have been taken into care. How has this state of affairs come about, and what, if anything, can be done about it? And, while I am about it, does it matter?

I take first the question of divorce; not because it is the most important thing, but because it gives the most vivid picture of what has gone wrong. Our royalty goes back a long way; it is impossible to believe that all our monarchs have always loved their consorts and continued to do so throughout their lives; the same must be true of the whole family. But only now, it seems, do the members of the family parade their marital difficulties in public, going all the way to the once unthinkable point of divorce.

It can be argued that the present situation is more honest: once upon a time the rule in private was mistresses and paramours, lovers and adulterers, while the rule in public was unblemished and enduring marriage. Now who will dare to say that the royals should set the example, when half the marriages in the land are coming apart without anyone even noticing or caring about what is happening under the Queen's roof? So today, when royal marriages come apart, the formal breakdown of the coupling is done in the most piercing limelight (perhaps there should be a special private ceremony called The Severing of the Ties), and a bemused nation shakes its head, and wonders what things are coming to. As the nation did, even more wonderingly, when the pictures of the Duchess of York canoodling were published: I remembered the unkind verse that the rabble sang to Queen Caroline when George IV was trying to get rid of her, and I realised that it could be used again with a minimum of alteration:

> Oh gracious Ferg, we thee implore
> To go away and sin no more
> But if the effort be too great
> To go away at any rate.

But the divorces and separations did real damage to the palace, not from shocked people deploring divorce, but from a feeling, however unfair, that a royal family should keep its tribe in order. Once, of course, they had wise advisers, whose wise advice was followed, but the Things the Queen now seems to rely on could and should be hanged at the yardarm and buried five fathoms deep with nothing but good ensuing. She could do it with impunity, and there would be an immediate improvement in the general respect for the monarchy.

For instance, what Thing advised the Queen to sue *The Sun* for, of all things, copyright, and then wait a month to do it? Which Thing made so stupendous a mess of the argument over the royal income tax? What Things have repeatedly failed to make clear how much work the Queen does — much of it consisting of hours upon hours of politely listening to bores so dreadful that I cannot understand why she has not long since abdicated rather than entertain yet another; *mutatis mutandis* the same is true of the rest of the family.

But these matters are frequently discussed; what is not discussed is how the present situation came about. I have a theory, of course.

At some point, perhaps after the great success of the jubilee, the royal family made a historic decision: they would come down off their thrones and thronelets, and show themselves to be human beings just like their subjects. It was a truly royal decision, and the carrying out of it was carefully done; after all, we were three-quarters of the way through the century, and to go on trying to believe that the royals were of another race entirely was becoming increasingly difficult. But it was a colossal mistake. Once the figures had stepped down out of the golden coach, they became fair game; until then, they were made of china, gingerbread, gold and silver, clouds, regal smiles, sceptres, glitter, understanding and history. Now they were made of the same flesh as the Queen's subjects, and in due course could be portrayed regularly and unpleasantly in *Spitting Image* (which began in 1984) and abused in the pages of the less expensive newspapers. What the royal family forgot, or more likely decided to ignore for the best of reasons, was that:

> There's such divinity doth hedge a king.
> That treason can but peep to what it would.

It must be obvious that the genie cannot be put back into the bottle; if the royal family tried to get back to its remoteness it would only make things worse; they would be charged with knowing nothing about the lives of ordinary people, and accused of selfishness, indifference and even stirring their tea anti-clockwise.

There is no serious republican movement in this country, though it is not impossible that one may arise. Jack Straw, MP, and Marjorie Mowlam, MP, might think of constituting a dual monarchy, but to put it as kindly as possible, they would be rather better qualified for selling door-to-door plastic-bound Filofaxes on commission.

Lord St John of Fawsley, when he had been on a committee concerning the royal finances, said very wisely "We can have a grand monarchy, or we can have no monarchy, but we cannot have a mean monarchy." If you think we could have a mean monarchy, just contemplate those northern royals who go about on bicycles, not because they are kept impoverished by their politicians, but because they think that it is their duty to be like their subjects, and that since their subjects go about on bicycles they should do the same; no greater misapprehension can be imagined.

Conquering kings their titles take; for every person who knows where the line comes from, there must be a thousand who know only the spoonerism. We could, of course, dispense with our monarchy, without calling for tumbrils and guillotines; our peaceful lot would go quietly into retirement. But we would fall into two very dangerous traps. First, Heaven forfend that, having sent all royalty packing, we should have a head of state — some dreadful superannuated failure, to be found staggering about in the House of Lords. But if we do not have such a wretched simulacrum of royalty, we shall have only the politicians themselves to hold the ring.

Would you want a Britain in which the politicians not only run the country but also constitute the last resort of our democracy? If there is no check and balance above the politicians, however constitutionally bound, just stop and think what chicanery, what partiality, what mendacity, what pomposity, what dishonesty, what impudence, greed, folly, crookedness, vainglory, nest-feathering, excuses and plain bloody robbery would be practised on a helpless nation.

If that is what the end of monarchy would mean — and it would — we had better rejoice in our present arrangements, and do everything we can to ensure that the monarchy would not, so disdained, give up and dissolve itself. Failing that, we could call in Prince Sihanouk. Well, you must admit he would be a great deal better than Jack Straw and Marjorie Mowlam.

Tradition under threat

Robert Rhodes James on the sad decline of trust

John Major was quite right, in his speech to the Carlton Club this week, to emphasise the need to bolster the institutions which give continuity and framework to our society. Of course, making fun of our national institutions is a traditional British pastime. Satire and pricking the balloon of pomposity have been a feature of our society for centuries.

But the present climate is something totally new in my experience. The criticism is not good-humoured at all, and often vicious. The result has been a gradual but definite fall in public respect for, and trust in, almost every one of our institutions.

In the past the institutions that have been the objects of mockery have survived and even been improved by it. The monarchy has changed, but is still there; so is the House of Lords, the Church of England, our Law Courts, and system of law, the honours system, our military hierarchy, and a House of Commons that is ruled more by precedent and tradition than standing orders. But when the police are trusted as little as politicians, and the morale of the Church of England is so low, and the monarchy might be in jeopardy, it is time to stop and ask ourselves what we are doing.

One institution which seems to think that it is impervious to this barrage is the press itself. The howls of outrage at the Calcutt report are more interesting than the report itself, which is deeply flawed and very much open to challenge. But although Calcutt may have hit the wrong targets and come up with the wrong solution, there is a widespread feeling that some sections of the media have gone too far.

It is one thing to expose the activities of people in high station, merely to prove the obvious point that they are human and fallible like the rest of us; it is quite another to pester grieving widows and families, and bombard innocent people with telephone calls, long-distance cameras, and journalists on the doorstep, eager to obtain a story, regardless of other people's feelings. By a curious coincidence only newspaper proprietors seem exempt from these pressures, and the more cynical of us remember the late Randolph Churchill's comment that "sonofabitch don't eat sonofabitch". A situation in which you have to possess the money and nerve of a Jeffrey Archer to take on one of these colossi is a bad one.

Newspapers are ephemeral, stale once tasted. But what is happening is a constant drum-beat of denigration of the institutions rather than the imperfect people who run them. The facts are that we have a civil service of unquestioned integrity, judges and lawyers who believe deeply in justice, and the vast majority of Members of Parliament who are decent, honourable, and hard-working — but it would be difficult to understand this from our press. And now that institution itself is being regarded with increasing distrust, and even contempt.

Recession has opened another category of institutions, particularly the banks, to suspicion and fear and mistrust. As in the case of other institutions, much of this is justified, and Sir Jeremy Morse, chairman of Lloyds Bank, was right publically to express his dismay at the mistakes that have been made and the low esteem in which his profession is held, just as others are right to lament the passing of old-fashioned business methods and the arrival of hard men to whom the only test of success is wealth, made by whatever means possible. This does not mean that all British businessmen are greedy and untrustworthy, but we only hear about the others.

Lady Thatcher had a point when she said that there is no such thing as "society", yet in fact she was wrong. British society is as subtle as our history, but we all know what it means. It is about people living together and getting on with one another, and obeying certain rules of conduct, and keeping the law. Americans and others continue to claim that Britain is riddled with class. It is not — especially not in Scotland. But the cement in our society, at every level, is trust. We are rapidly approaching the point when we feel we cannot trust anyone any more, and that our institutions have failed us — and not the other way round.

Pulling down fine old buildings is easy; building new ones is more complex. We are now more conservation-minded than ever about our old towns and villages, and our countryside, and not before time. We should now be very conservation-minded about institutions that have, after all, served us superbly in the past. They have been reformed, and have reformed themselves; none is incapable of change and improvement. But the relentless and irresponsible denigration of everything is fraught with danger. In Churchill's phrase in another context, "Stop it! Stop it! And stop it now!" before we find that we have done irreparable damage not only to our institutions but to ourselves.

The author was Conservative MP for Cambridge 1976-92.

A dog of war again

MALCOLM Rifkind's tactical retreat was greeted by a loud woof of delight from the dog kennel of The Staffordshire Regiment in Lichfield. Watchman III, a Staffordshire bull terrier, the regimental mascot, was expressing his approval.

Yesterday Watchman, who always receives a friendly pat on the head from the Duke of York, the colonel-in-chief, was recovering, along with many of his officers, from the impromptu celebrations marking the reprieve that saved the regiment from the planned amalgamation with the Cheshires. After all, who's ever heard of a Cheshire bull terrier?

Major Mac McLean, regimental secretary, says: "We would have taken him with us whatever happened. We could never have given him up. He is the regiment." Watchman, who enjoys the rank of lance corporal, is now in line for promotion to celebrate the regiment's independence, McLean says. "I think the Cheshires would have loved him. But we would rather keep him all to ourselves."

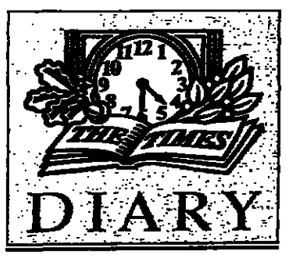
At the Cheshire regimental headquarters in Chester — the regiment is serving in Bosnia — there was also great rejoicing. The reprieve has come just in time for the most important event in the calendar: the 150th anniversary on February 17 of the 2,800-strong regiment's victory at Meeanee, in Sind, India, against a Baluchi army of 30,000 men.

Major Tony Astle, secretary of The Cheshire Regiment Association, says: "The reunion to mark the event was due to take place at the Staffordshire barracks a week tomorrow. It would have been a wake, not a celebration. But that has all changed. The Cheshires may have drunk all the champagne in Bosnia but we may now be able to find a bottle or two here."

Bottoms up

ONE of Watchman's first official duties as the Staffordshires' independent mascot will be to accompany such top brass as Field Marshal Lord Bramall and the Duke of York to Tuesday's launch of *Rats' Tales*, a book describing the regiment's role in the Gulf war.

The author, Nicholas Benson, a former member of the regiment and now a trainee solicitor, is still contemplating the repercussions of



the reprieve. "I will have great pleasure," he says, "in pointing out to the Duke of York that, thankfully, he was wrong when he wrote in the foreword: 'It may be that the Gulf war ... will be the last campaign fought by the Staffordshire Regiment in its own name'."

"The new speech will be celebratory," says Benson. "Now we can look forward to visiting the King's Head in Lichfield afterwards — that's the pub where Colonel Luke Lillingston founded the 38th of Foot, now the Staffordshire Regiment, in 1705. I just hope it won't be me buying the drinks."

Dole doubts

JOHN Major may not have made his mind up about workfare. But David Willetts, one of the inspirations of the Carlton Club speech, has. "I am ideologically opposed," says Willetts, the Tory MP for Havant.

Which is of some interest because Willetts was described by Major in his speech as "the newest addition to that distinguished list of conservatism's historians and philosophers".

Major's speech bore more than a passing resemblance to Willetts's book, *Modern Conservatism*, and *Bearing the Standard*, the first policy document of the Standard Bearers, a group of 10 new Tory MPs who wrote it in November 1991, before they were elected.

Neither the Standard Bearers, of whom Willetts is a member, nor his book mention workfare. And for good reasons, says Willetts, a former member of Baroness Thatchers' policy unit: "It's the nationalisation of unemployment. It is unacceptable state intervention. If there are idle hands, and un-met needs, state intervention will distort the natural labour market."

● *FOR a moment, the collapse of Leyland DAF looked like a second blow to the Royal Shakespeare Company, still reeling from Royal Insurance's decision to relinquish its role as principal sponsor at the end of this year. Fortunately, however, the two vans that Leyland DAF gave the RSC last year were a gift, not a loan. "It was a one-off gift and we were never expecting any more," says a spokesman. Much ado about nothing, then.*

New flame?

WHILE Sir Ranulph Fiennes and Dr Michael Stroud march on across the South Pole, Lady Fiennes is conducting a candlelit vigil at her Exmoor farmhouse. The candle was a Christmas present from her husband.

Lady Fiennes was "astonished" when it arrived. "On Christmas Eve this huge van turned up with a big box in the back containing four wax candles, each about 4ft high. Ranulph had got in contact with his brother-in-law, who rushed around London and found the right ones."

So far she has burnt just one candle, which has been alight continuously since Christmas. Only four inches remain, enough, she believes, to last the 50 miles the two explorers have left.

Recent news about the deepening cold, frostbite and her husband's foot infection have left Lady Fiennes "concerned". But she is confident that they are experienced enough not to risk their lives unnecessarily. Besides, she is used to the effects of physical hardship on her husband, who lost the little toe on his right foot after a previous expedition. "It fell off when he was in the bath. He put it on the side of the bath and forgot about it. It was quite a shock when I found it."

● *Wealden district council has discovered an ingenious way of enticing the "non-sporty" into exercise. Local GPs are prescribing swimming to patients whose ailments range from heart trouble to obesity. "The cost of swimming and general exercise is heavily reduced if it comes on prescription," says Michael Osbourne, the Hailsham Leisure Centre's manager. "The irony is that these clients have become our most regular customers — the health freaks tend to give up after a while."*



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ILL AT EASE

The Prime Minister at last looks beyond today's troubles

John Major deserved more from his speech to the Carlton Club than a day's discussion on whether the unemployed should work for their welfare cheques. A mere seven lines of text, tentatively delivered as though from the longest of long spoons, made sure that many other firmer parts of the prime minister's philosophy went unnoticed yesterday.

In Downing Street there was an irresistible temptation to blame the press for distortion, to ask whether tabloid newspaper editors did not only try to choose the prime minister's cabinet but to write his speeches. The blame would be better placed among those who failed to realise how inflammatory the notion of "workfare" would become. When unemployment is rising so fast and desperation for its solution is so great, it is not surprising that the media should seize on any new suggestion, even one based on nothing more than the words "I increasingly wonder" and "I believe we should explore".

Mr Major boasted in his first few minutes of speaking on Wednesday night that the Conservative party had a long-established ability "to keep a finger on the pulse of the British people". Events of the past few months, from the sacking of miners to the failure to sack David Mellor, suggest that it is precisely this link to the feelings of Britain which is now lacking. Many in the country fear that the doctor checking their pulse may be a quack. Part-planned suggestions of welfare reform cannot improve patient confidence. Nor did they do so.

The speech, however, aimed at the "longer term", that remote outpost of Mr Major's world which, by his own admission, he has visited too little. The timing of the occasion — amid financial turbulence, a truck industry collapse and the reprieving of doomed regiments — may have been imperfect. The substance gave some grounds for cheer.

The prime minister does seem now to have begun addressing the concerns that most trouble the British people. Mr Major did not neglect in his speech the issues of the 1980s, privatisation and prudent public finance, but he looked well beyond them. The country is not, as he put it, "at ease with itself". The Prime Minister stressed the difference between unnecessary deference and necessary respect. He deplored the lack of care for history, the dearth of literacy in schools, the severance of young people from the English worlds of Trollope, Dickens, Shakespeare and even A.A. Milne.

The relation between artistic and political cultures was clearly much on his mind. As he looked out over the Carlton Club membership, he would have seen many members "lost in thoughtless ease", even the odd "fat weed that rots itself in ease", but almost none who would see ease in the nation as a whole. He struck a chord among the Conservative old guard that may bring him great personal benefits in future.

The speech not only called for a meritocratic, classless society, but began to show how it might be achieved. The government does not yet have as coherent a programme for modernising Britain as it would like. It may find that new American models of institutional accountability, as studied by the new administration in Washington, may be of as much use to the changing Tory party as to Labour's leaders. We may soon be reading of the Clintonisation of the Conservatives.

Mr Major forcefully pointed out how the divide between white-collar and blue-collar workers had crippled British industry and restricted opportunity. His determination to break down those barriers and raise the esteem of vocational qualifications was encouraging: so too was the commitment from a Conservative leader to improving opportunities for women and ethnic minorities. He made appropriate remarks about the royal family but seemed properly anxious that the momentum for change in Britain — made most obvious during the debates on Maastricht and the monarchy — should be used rather than lost.

Much of the speech was a measure of how in Britain today, just as in America, the contending parties of politics have converged towards common themes. Many of the phrases could as easily have been delivered by John Smith. Phrases such as "the cohesion of society", "the rich diversity of our nation" and "our belief in community" would not have tripped easily from the tongue of Margaret Thatcher. At the same time Labour has started to adopt the traditionally Conservative concepts of opportunity and responsibility.

It is to be welcomed that both men are prepared to share common ground rather than divide it artificially between them. The next victory will go to the party that best adapts these concepts to the problems of this decade rather than those of the late 1970s or 1980s. Despite his failure to inspire allegiance, vividly represented by the letters on this page today, Mr Major is still ahead of his Opposition rival in this respect.

Many obstacles remain within the current culture of Conservatives. Home ownership has a long Tory tradition and the "right to buy", instigated by Lady Thatcher, was one of the most popular policies of recent years. Now, however, it is clearer how the rapid extension of home ownership distorted the housing market and exaggerated the natural cycles in the economy. What Britain needs is a climate in which house prices rise no faster than earnings and in which those who want to rent are financially no worse off than those who buy. This inevitably means the phasing out of mortgage interest tax relief, a brave move towards which the government is edging. Mr Major properly signalled his intention to encourage the private rented sector, but he must accept that while subsidies are weighted so heavily towards home ownership, few people will choose to rent.

Yesterday's row about "workfare" reveals another unanswered philosophical problem. As in America, there is a danger that British society is splitting into the large majority who work and enjoy rising living standards and the minority who are unemployed and form a barely participating underclass. But would a new policy of forcing work in return for welfare payments bring a left-wing extension of "big government bureaucracy" or a right-wing drive to remove the unemployed from the register? It was not clear. It must be clarified before Mr Major raises the notion again.

The prime minister's eyes have certainly moved higher since last autumn's party conference speech. On Wednesday night the only reminder of his then most notable promise — to increase the number of lavatories on motorways — was a touch of opaque homeliness about village bakers.

Mr Major is bound to be compared with Mrs Thatcher when he undertakes such addresses. By that standard his conviction is still found wanting. Since Mr Major himself raised the virtues of Trollope and Dickens, he might perhaps be hoping for the future age, described by Trollope in the famous attack on his reforming rival, when "Mr Sentiment has nothing left to do . . and divine peeresses are no longer interesting". That time has not yet come. But, after the years of Thatcherite rule, it is good to see Mr Major's Conservatives still thinking far ahead and picking difficult targets.

THE LIGHT FANTASTIC

Russian science illuminates where its philosophy failed

Early yesterday morning, a pale beam of sunlight reflected from a Russian space rocket panned across western Europe from Toulouse to Belarus, as if from a celestial light house. For a few miraculous minutes, an aluminium sail orbiting the planet became the most sophisticated lighting device in history, harnessing the primitive forces of the heavens to defy the last moments of the night.

A 24-hour day without respite from light is the stuff of totalitarian dream and science fiction nightmare. Yet the chance to pour light into the darkest recesses of the globe responds to an ancient human impulse, as old as the torches which allowed stone age man to paint the caves in Altamira and the Dordogne. A longing for light pervades medieval writings, a symbol of intellectual escape from the Dark Ages. Dante's *Paradiso* is a hymn to this yearning, equally visible in the spectacular illumination of confessionals and bestiaries.

In later centuries, ingenuity and passion conspired to banish darkness. In 1804, Aimé Argand invented the first oil lamp and 68 years later Pavel Yablochkov developed the prototype of the modern street light, originally to protect the Tsar from terrorists hiding in railway tunnels. Tungsten filaments and neon tubes followed. But the rhythms of human life are still defined by the planet's revolutions. American senators continue to debate the best form of "daylight-saving time", just as British citizens change their clocks twice a year. "The jaws of darkness" still snap at our heels.

The Russian invention promises a different world, more like a film set than a Shakespearean stage. Scientists and astronauts should eventually be able to achieve the same cinematic tricks of the light celebrated in Francois Truffaut's delightful film *Day for Night*. No sports event need be floodlit again, no inner city estate unsafe to walk through, no rescue mission hindered by darkness. The wartime blackout may yet find its mirror image in this scientific manna from heaven.

The success of the *Znamya* mission should also be a watershed for post-communist Russian science. Soviet society bred great theoreticians, such as Konstantin Tsiolkovski, the father of modern rocket mathematics, rather than men of action and enterprise. Fear and Gosplan determined their projects, which were punctuated by the occasional purge. But in Sakharov, the outside world discovered an emblem of Russian genius in rebellion against untruth. Now Russia's wealth of scientific knowledge has been liberated.

Yesterday's luminous extravanganza was an open bid for Western money, signalling that Russian scientists will parade their spectacular wares until capital is found to back them. Their latest schemes include a plan to build missiles which fire aid relief into disaster areas, a laser spacecraft to repair the ozone layer and spaceships that sail on solar winds.

Not all will come to fruition. But from this new culture of scientific enterprise, dramatic innovation is sure to emerge. If the Strategic Defence Initiative was the last great invention of the Cold War, then yesterday's fantastic mission was the first breakthrough of a new world market in technological ideas. Where once there was darkness, let there be light. And what more appropriate symbol for one of communism's few good legacies than that it be all done by mirrors.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Need for vision in nation's leader

From Mr A. T. Kuhn

Sir, Our American cousins would recognise William Rees-Mogg's cry from the heart about the prime minister ("Our national malaise", January 28). Most believe it was the absence of leadership (the "vision thing") which cost George Bush his second term.

True leadership requires a vision of the future. Such vision is a cousin of planning. And planning was (and remains?) anathema to the Thatcherites, content to go where the market blew them.

Thus we have no coherent national plans (policies) for energy, transport, agriculture or indeed for industry. Neither do we have any strategies recognising the interplay between these, and other major sectors such as health or education.

Leadership is about the implementing of goals, if not visions. Since we appear to have eschewed setting ourself such goals, what role is there for a leader in the UK at this time?

Yours sadly,
A. T. KUHN,
105 Whitney Drive,
Stevenage, Hertfordshire.
January 28.

From Mr Lucas Mellinger

Sir, In a developed democracy, the function of a leader, I suggest, is to give effect to the will of the people. Accordingly, the leader is elected as a servant, a skilled executive, for his understanding of what the nation wants and how these wants can be attained.

William Rees-Mogg's expectations — like those of John Milton (*Lycidas*, 1638), whom he quotes — are for a leader who will himself invent and bestow a recovery from his exalted office to the "hungry sheep" who "look up and are not fed".

The crucial omission in our prime minister's leadership is not the failure "to cure the current clinical depression in the country's spirit". That lies not in his power. It is his failure to make the nation aware that the cure lies indispensably in the working hands and minds of the individual.

In practical terms this means, for instance, that no cut in interest rate can possibly enhance our economy before the CBI, or sheep in any other flock, stop bleating and start to produce goods or render services which, internationally, are needed, affordable and unmatched. That alone will guarantee a cure.

Yours faithfully,
LUCAS MELLINGER,
4 Kew Green, Richmond, Surrey.
January 28.

From Mr George Thomas

Sir, Does the prime minister not understand that there is hardly one department in his government that seems really to believe in its own policies? He personally has failed to convince the nation that he is on top of his job and has the judgment to make the right choice on the big issues. His suit against the *New Statesman* suggests he doesn't even know when to panic.

National self-belief is a question of leadership, and in that we have yet another deficit that needs attention. Complaints about "merchants of gloom" (report, January 30) come ill from the one man above all who is responsible for getting us into this mess and whose bewildering lack of leadership is the principal cause of the gloom.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE THOMAS,
17 Campden Hill Square, W8.
February 1.

Business letters, page 23

Solutions for our economic ills

From Sir Samuel Goldman

Sir, Now that Keynes is back (Anatole Kaletsky's article, January 27) let us do the thing properly. To talk of increasing taxes because of the growing PSBR seems little short of lunacy. That has grown because of unemployment which would have been much worse — indeed catastrophic — but for the PSBR deficit. This will fall when unemployment falls and the economy revives.

So the Keynesian policy for the March budget should include a further cut in interest rates (probably), a reduction in VAT to 15 per cent or even less to help revive consumer confidence and demand, and significant help to first-time buyers of houses, the key to revival of the building trade.

Then we can do what doctors often recommend — sit back and watch during the months before the second budget later in the year. We have our newly appointed seven specialists ("'Wise Men' back rate cuts", report, February 2) to keep fingers on the economic pulse as well as the ordinary practitioners.

Worries about the exchange rate? This may fall in the short run, but if any validity remains of the theory favoured by Gustav Cassel in the 1930s that exchange rates are determined by the relative purchasing power of the currencies concerned, the rate will come back in spite of the speculators, or perhaps because of them.

Inflation? Any impact from depreciation of the exchange rate takes a long time to work through, as we have seen, and the VAT cut would help to offset the short-term effects.

With no election in sight, no one could claim such a policy is motivated by short-term electoral considerations, as in the past. The aim must be to break out of the miasma of depression and despair brought on by three, maybe four, million unemployed, which can no longer be tolerated.

Yours faithfully,
S. GOLDMAN,
3 Little Tangley,
Wonersh, Guildford, Surrey.
February 3.

From Mr C. A. Collins

Sir, Our trade deficit for December exceeded £1.7 billion (report, January 29). Figures such as this, which have become commonplace, are unsustainable.

According to statistics compiled by the Campaign for an Independent Britain, our visible trade deficit with Europe grew to £16 billion in the first ten years after joining the Common Market, compared with £1 billion during the previous ten years.

In the 17 years after joining, our visible and invisible trade with the Community was in deficit by £56 billion; our trade with the rest of the world over the same period was in surplus by £86 billion.

We seem therefore to have been misled by politicians as to the advisability of joining the Common Market. In view of this and the many factors against European union in any form, I am glad that you are among those calling for a referendum on the issue (leading article, January 16).

Yours faithfully,
C. A. COLLINS,
27 Wayland's Mead,
The Knoll, Beckenham, Kent.

From Mr N. W. Dennis

Sir, In the long run, attempting to fix exchange rates may or may not be doomed to failure, as Nicholas Ridley says (article, February 2), depending on the disparity of the economies concerned. The trouble with adopting a single currency is not that it will not work but rather that the differential effects of market forces on the different regions (countries), with their different levels of economic efficiency, will be all too transparent for political comfort.

A single currency clearly can work, as in the United States. The barriers that will prevent the establishment of a United States of Europe are cultural and linguistic, not economic — as Lord Ridley is gleefully aware.

Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS DENNIS,
Valentine Cottage, Pope's Lane,
Cookham Dean, Berkshire.

From Mr R. S. Fraser

Sir, Your leading article, "No points for truth" (February 2), says that "Mr Lamont has lost all credibility, both in the City and at Westminster".

In this part of the world that happened over a year ago. We're used to the middle of London catching up later, but things are really serious when it takes as long as that.

Yours faithfully,
R. S. FRASER,
South View, Cliffside,
Wilmslow, Cheshire.

Major 'right to defend his honour'

From Mr Richard Shegog

Sir, I believe there to be a huge gap between the opinions of your columnists such as Mr Simon Jenkins ("Sex, lies and political gossip", January 30) and those of your ordinary readers, certainly your older ones.

To him and to most of those who live by the media, to be falsely accused of adultery is a "molehill". Gossip is to be merrily laughed off and therefore the lies behind the gossip are to be ignored.

We older readers simply believe that Mr Major, since he is prime minister and a leader of his country, had no option, whatever the political outfall, but to set an example and deal with the lies openly within the framework of the law.

This belief is the more rigid because of the cover-up around the heir apparent. We are conscious that our own parents would not have withstood the shock of what has happened.

We do not want any more muck-raking but long for some leader of Church or state to confirm the old truths — that adultery and lying are sins, which are not to be buried or laughed off but forgiven after confession and repentance. Unless the strategy of cover-up is broken and the air is cleared, we will go to our graves with a sense of shame and foreboding for our country.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD SHEGOG,
Orchard End, Peterstow,
Ross-on-Wye, Herefordshire.
January 31.

From Mr George Cook

Sir, Simon Jenkins does not mention the word "honour" in his article, which presumes to advise the prime minister on his reaction to the *New Statesman* article. Among the chattering classes this may be a derisory word: not so among the working class with whom I live.

A lady's name is involved, but Jenkins does not mention this aspect. It is pivotal, and in my pub the prime minister's action is applauded.

Your obedient servant,
GEORGE COOK,
9 Strait Lane,
Hurworth-on-Tees,
Co. Durham.
January 30.

Spanish prince

From Mrs Rosemary Fernández

Sir, The first name of the heir to the Spanish throne, the Prince of Asturias, is Felipe (William Rees-Mogg's article of February 1, "The rusty lock on royal marriages", names him as Juan Pablo).

Prince Felipe would no doubt have been as excited as the rest of Spain last August to learn of his engagement to Isabel Sartorius; but as far as I am aware no such announcement was or has been made and the options are apparently still open.

Yours faithfully,
ROSEMARY FERNÁNDEZ,
La Solana, VA-145,
Indonesia 8,
Ctra. de Jesus Pobre,
03737 Javea, Alicante, Spain.
February 1.

Popular festivities

From Mrs Betty Caldwell

Sir, You report (January 28, later editions) that the Royal Festival Hall "will echo to the sound of rock" and that the Arts Council approves of having fewer classical programmes in order to help fill the house.

I seem to remember that when the GLC tried to make the hall more popular this was attacked as the work of the "looney left". How times do change.

Yours faithfully,
BETTY CALDWELL,
3 St Mary's Walk, SE11.
January 28.

Air service restrictions

From the Chairman, Air Transport Users Committee

Sir, In his analysis of the problems facing the international airline industry (letter, January 26) Mr A. J. Lucking correctly identifies the Gulf war and economic recession as being partly to blame. However, his assertion that "attempts to introduce airline competition" have exacerbated these problems and his apparent belief that consumers will suffer from liberalisation in the long run cannot go unchallenged.

The Air Transport Users Committee has consistently supported the now largely successful campaign to liberalise services within the European Community. We have done so on the basis that competition provides the best available mechanism to ensure that users always have a choice and that the services provided by airlines are of high quality and reasonable price.

This is borne out by events in the United States. Since deregulation in 1978, fares have fallen by 20 per cent in real terms and whereas less than 30 per cent of passengers could choose from three or more airlines, more than half of all users now have that choice.

Whilst there are some less happy lessons to be learned from US experience, we expect European passengers to benefit similarly, perhaps not immediately but certainly in the longer term.

Yours faithfully,
NORMAN NICHOLSON,
Chairman,
Air Transport Users Committee,
2nd Floor, Kingsway House,
103 Kingsway, WC2.

Secret societies

From Mr Christopher Mullin, MP for Sunderland South (Labour)

Sir, I agree with Bernard Levin ("Masons: a final solution", January 29). There is a great deal of unjustified paranoia about freemasonry. His hysterical overreaction to my Secret Societies (Declaration) Bill is a good example.

Mr Levin writes: ". . . there is not one word in Mr Mullin's bill which explains why it is being introduced . . ." When the bill was introduced last July 1, I made a ten-minute speech outlining the reasoning behind it. Had Mr Levin bothered to ask, I would gladly have provided him with the relevant extract from Hansard.

The key sentence was: "Nothing is more corrosive of public confidence in public institutions than the idea that public servants, whether elected or appointed, may be members of a secret society one of whose aims is mutual self-advancement."

Yours sincerely,
CHRIS MULLIN,
House of Commons.
February 2.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 071-782 5046.

Friends and foes of Biggles

From Mr David Damant

Sir, The discussions by your correspondents (January 29) on the prototype for Biggles could be extended to consider the prototypes for Erich von Stalhein, Biggles's great enemy in a number of adventures.

In his introduction to *Biggles Flies East*, published in 1934, W. E. Johns explained that publication had been held up until that year because one of the principal actors had only recently died.

This could in the context refer only to Stalhein. He had been shot, Johns reports, in an allusion, clearly, to the strike by Hitler against the SA, precursors of the SS, in the same year. For it was in that action that Hitler disposed of that most political of generals, Kurt von Schleicher — a fitting end to the ruthless and intelligent Stalhein.

In fact, as aficionados will know, Stalhein was such a good baddy that Johns subsequently resurrected him.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID DAMANT,
Agar House,
12 Agar Street, WC2.
February 1.

From Mr David Gillard

Sir, Your correspondent Roy Lee-Faulkner (January 29) is wrong to believe that Biggles had no romantic entanglement: his love for the German agent, Marie Janis, is well documented in an early short story, "Affaire de Coeur", in *The Camels are Coming* (1932). The Camels referred to are, of course, the first world war aeroplanes of the Sopwith type, not the sort that T. E. Lawrence rode.

In 1961, at the age of 11, I wrote to Johns asking if there were more stories exploring this romance. "No, Biggles never saw Marie again," Johns replied. "Bad luck, wasn't it? But he may meet her one day." And, in 1965, he did, rescuing her from behind the Iron Curtain in *Biggles Looks Back* and confiding to his resurrected old enemy, Erich von Stalhein: "There has never been another woman in my life."

Yours faithfully,
DAVID GILLARD,
16 Grasmere Road,
Bromley, Kent.
January 29.

From Mr D. M. Desoutter

Sir, Although W. E. Johns's acquaintance with T. E. Lawrence, alleged (report, January 28) to be the prototype for Biggles, was limited to only an hour or two of formal interviews, it was long enough for him to form a lasting dislike for the man. He considered Lawrence an outsider, rather than a fellow aviator, and he found homosexuality distasteful and morally objectionable.

Bill Johns, who was my friend and mentor for more than 30 years, abided by the old morality, and believed in honesty and straightness. He was also serious about careful research before publication, another of the old virtues whose loss he would deplore.

Yours,
DENNY DESOUTTER,
Cuckoo Nod, Coombe Keynes,
Wareham, Dorset.
January 29.

From Mr John Havers

Sir, I do not know why Mr Lee-Faulkner should be worried that Biggles, a first war "ace", was "still flying in the 1960s".

Air Commodore "Daddy" Probyn, a first war DSO, was still flying in 1981 and, in fact, flew himself in to his 90th birthday party, at Nyeri in Kenya, in a plane which he had built himself. His death, at the age of 100, was reported in *The Times* on March 27, 1992.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN HAVERS,
The Glebe Cottage,
Woolfardisworthy East,
Nr Crediton, Devon.
January 29.

Weight of opinion

From Miss Samantha Peel

Sir, "Fat people", as Matthew Parris insisted on calling them (article, February 1), would not need to find excuses for their size if our society did not make them feel abnormal and figures of fun just because they are not a size 10.

Yours faithfully,
SAMANTHA PEEL,
128 Christchurch Road,
Tulse Hill, SW2.
February 1.

Correct cooking

From Mrs Joan Brinham

Sir, To the politically correct publisher who is unwilling to risk wounding the feelings of young vegetarians (Alan Coren article, February 3), the title *Little Red Lentil* should appeal. Alternative titles unlikely to offend the caring but nonetheless carnivorous child are *Little Amerindian Free Range Chicken* or *Little Non-politically Aligned Free Range Chicken*.

Yours faithfully,
JOAN BRINHAM,
6 Churchfields Avenue,
Weybridge, Surrey.
February 3.

COURT CIRCULAR

SANDRINGHAM
NORFOLK
February 4: The Queen this afternoon visited Queen Elizabeth Hospital, King's Lynn, and, having been received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Norfolk (Mr Timothy Colman) and the Chairman, King's Lynn and Wisbech Hospitals NHS Trust (Sir Julian Loyd), toured the hospital escorted by Mr Barry Starkey (Chief Executive, NHS Trust).

The Lady Susan Hussey, Sir Kenneth Scott and Major James Patrick were in attendance.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
February 4: The Prince Edward, President, the Lord's Taverners, this evening attended the "Gary Lineker Evening" at Grosvenor House Hotel, Park Lane, London W1.

Mrs Richard Warburton was in attendance.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
February 4: The Princess Royal, Honorary President, Chartered Institute of Transport, today attended the International Council Meeting, Jury's Hotel, Ballsbridge, Dublin, and was received by Her Majesty's Ambassador at Dublin (His Excellency Mr David Blatherwick).

Her Royal Highness, Patron, the Waitangi Foundation, accompanied by Commander Timothy Laurence RN, this evening attended the Première of "The End of the Golden Weather", MGM Cinema, 135 Shaftesbury Avenue, London WC2, and was received by the New Zealand High Commissioner (His Excellency the Hon George Gair).

ST JAMES'S PALACE
February 4: The Prince of Wales this morning received the Leader of the Opposition (the Rt Hon John Smith MP).

His Royal Highness afterwards received the Chief of Naval Staff and First Sea Lord (Admiral Sir Julian Oswald).

The Prince of Wales, Trustee, this afternoon attended a Meeting of the Board of Trustees, the National Gallery, London WC2.

Miss Belinda Harley was in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
February 4: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon was present this evening at the London Premiere of "Damage" at the Curzon West End Cinema, in aid of the Almeida Theatre.

The Hon Mrs Wills was in attendance.

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE
February 4: The Duchess of Kent, Patron, the Cancer and Leukaemia in Childhood Trust, this afternoon visited the Paediatric Oncology Unit at the John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford and was met on arrival by Lady Young (Deputy Lieutenant of Oxfordshire).

Her Royal Highness later officially opened the CLIC Court, the new "home from home", 87 Jack Straw's Lane, Headington, Oxfordshire.

The Duchess of Kent this afternoon attended a lecture given by Professor David Dilks at Rhodes House, Oxford.

Mrs Peter Troughton was in attendance.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
RICHMOND PARK
February 4: Princess Alexandra, Deputy Colonel-in-Chief the Light Infantry, this afternoon received Major-General M D Regan, Colonel of the Regiment, Lieutenant Colonel P R Sharland (5th Battalion) and Lieutenant Colonel P J Wykeham, Regimental Secretary.

Her Royal Highness this evening attended a Concert given by the Young Musicians' Symphony Orchestra at the Royal Festival Hall, London SE1.

The Lady Nicholas Gordon Lennox was in attendance.

At the invitation of His Excellency President Walesa, His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales will pay an official visit to the Republic of Poland in May.



TONY WHITE

Harmony of hope: Sam Thi Nguyen, 27, and Alison White, 22, were among 60 young musicians auditioning in London yesterday for a chance to work and perform with the conductors Sir Georg Solti, Semyon Bychkov and Valérie Gergiev, by winning a place in the Schleswig Holstein Music Festival Orchestra. Successful candidates will spend eight weeks at Salzau, a lakeside castle near Kiel which is the summer music conservatory for the festival. Auditions for the 120 places in the orchestra are being held all over the world; Britain should get five

Forthcoming marriages

Mr A.M. Bird and Miss T.C. Nicholds
The engagement is announced between Andrew, son of Mr and Mrs J.H. Bird, of Potters Bar, Hertfordshire, and Tamsin, daughter of Mr J. Nicholds, of Hampton-in-Arden, Solihull, and Mrs A. Nicholds, of Dorridge, Solihull.

Mr D. Brown and Miss K.S. Barnsley
The engagement is announced between David, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Thomas Brown, of Abingdon, Oxfordshire, and Kay, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Geoffrey Barnsley, of Harborne, Birmingham.

Mr M.J. Capstick-Dale and Miss C. McCallum
The engagement is announced between Marcus, son of Mr Rodney Capstick-Dale, of Chelsea, London, and Mrs Sheelagh Capstick-Dale, of Clifton, Bristol, and Clare, daughter of Mr and Mrs Ian McCallum, of Westonbirt, Gloucestershire.

Mr J.D. Crossman and Ms D.A. Rynda
The engagement is announced between Jonathan Crossman, of Rotherfield Peppard, Oxfordshire, and Deborah Rynda, formerly of Oklahoma City, USA.

Mr O. Gibbs and Miss I. Halford
The engagement is announced between Oliver, son of Canon William and Lady Sarah Gibbs, of Guilsborough, Northamptonshire, and Isabelle, daughter of Lieutenant Colonel and Mrs John Halford, of Paris.

Mr T.I. Hendren and Miss D.L. Simpson
The marriage will take place on February 6, in London, of Mr Thomas Iain Hendren, of Ayr, Scotland, and Miss Deborah Lynnette Simpson, of Auckland, New Zealand.

Mr C.A. Huber and Miss Z.J. Subhani
The engagement is announced between Colin Alexander, eldest son of Mr and Mrs E. Huber, of Cheltenham, and Zareena Jean, only daughter of Dr and Mrs M. Subhani, of Thorne, Yorkshire.

Mr J.W.J. Logan and Miss P.A. Clarke
The engagement is announced between James, eldest son of Commander and Mrs W.M. Logan, and Philippa, daughter of Mr and Mrs A.B. Clarke, of Stockton-on-Tees, Cleveland.

Major J.C. Maltman and Miss J.A. Packer
The engagement is announced between Major Jeremy Crispin Maltman, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment, younger son of Mr and Mrs J.D. Maltman, of Salehurst, East Sussex, and Julie Ann, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs C.E. Packer, of Mangotsfield, Bristol.

Mr S.W. Pratt and Miss E.K.R. Marsh
The engagement is announced between Schuyler Walden, younger son of Mr and Mrs R.J. Pratt, of Chigwell Row, Essex, and Emma Katherine Roff, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs G.I.R. Marsh, of Woodham Mortimer, Essex.

Mr N.J. Reynolds and Miss K.S.E. White
The engagement is announced between Nicholas John, younger son of Mr and Mrs Richard Reynolds, of Perth, Western Australia, and Katherine Sarah Elizabeth, eldest daughter of Major and Mrs Michael White, of Farnham Royal, Buckinghamshire.

Birthdays today

Major-General Sir Simon Cooper, 57; Mr Ian Findlay, former chairman, Lloyd's, 75; Lord Gibson, 77; Mrs Molly Hattersley, educationist, 62; Miss Susan Hill, novelist and playwright, 51; Professor Sir Alan Hodgkin, OM, former master, Trinity College, Cambridge, 79; the Hon Douglas Hogg, QC, MP, 48; General Sir Geoffrey Howlett, 63; Mr Denis Kennedy, chairman, Honeywell, 58; Wing Commander R.A.B. Learoyd, VC, 80; Mr Justice Morritt, 55; Mr Frank Muir, writer and broadcaster, 73; Professor A.M. Neville, former principal and vice-chancellor, Dundee University, 70; Miss Charlotte Rampling, actress, 47; the Very Rev Colin Semper, former Provost of Coventry, 55; Sir Michael Simpson-Orlebar, diplomat, 61; Sir Rodney Sweetnam, orthopaedic surgeon, 66; Lord Williams of Mostyn, QC, 52; Sir Leslie Young, former chairman, British Waterways Board, 68.

Appointment

Judge White to be Chairman of the County Court Rule Committee, succeeding Judge Stuart-White.

Italian Cultural Institute

A series of lectures on contemporary Italy will be given by leading Italian journalists, historians, philosophers, industrialists. The second lecture of 1993, "The Institutional Reform in Italy: Problems and Perspectives" will be delivered by the Right Hon Giorgio Napolitano, Speaker of the Italian Chamber of Deputies, on February 9, 1993, at 5.30pm. For further information please contact The Secretary, The Italian Cultural Institute, 39 Belgrave Square, London, SW1X 8NX. Telephone 071-235 1461. Admission is free. The third lecture will be given by Sergio Romano, on February 11, 1993, at 6.30pm, "Southern Italy, Northern Italy and the Problem of European Unification".

Turners' Company

Mr Ivor Owen, Director General of the Design Council, presented the Turners' Company's medals, prizes and certificates at the annual awards court yesterday in Apothecaries' Hall. Mr E.W. Sawney, Master, welcomed the guests.

Service dinners

Royal Pioneer Corps
Brigadier C.B. Telfer presided at the last central mess dinner of the Royal Pioneer Corps held last night at Simpson Barracks, Northampton, prior to the merger into the Royal Logistic Corps. The Lord Lieutenant of Northamptonshire and Major-General D.L. Burden were among the guests.

RCT
Major-General J.D. MacDonald, Director General of Transport and Movements, and Officers of the Royal Corps of Transport entertained heads of industry and commerce at a dinner held last night at RCT Headquarters Mess, Aldershot.

Old Oundelian Club
Colonel P.J. Bambury presided at the Old Oundelian armed services annual dinner held last night at the Cavalry and Guards Club. Mr G.J. Thorpe was principal guest.

Dinner

Royal Society for Asian Affairs
The Turkish Ambassador was among the speakers at the annual dinner of the Royal Society for Asian Affairs held last night at the Savoy Hotel. Lord Denman, president, presided and presented Mrs Odile Hourani with the Sir Percy Sykes Memorial Medal which was awarded to the late Albert Hourani. The Hon Douglas Hurd, MP, and Sir Michael Wilford also spoke.

Latest wills

Oliver Shewell Franks, Baron Franks, of Headington, Oxford, former Ambassador to Washington, and chairman of numerous committees, left estate valued at £2,702,791 net.

University news

Oxford
University prizes
The George Webb Medley Essay Prize 1992 was won by Liam Brunt.
The Weldon Memorial Prize 1992 was won by Professor George Oster.

Queen's, Belfast
The following honorary degrees to be awarded this year:
Doctor of laws: The Rev Dr Michael Hurley, for services to the community; Brian Keenan, for services to humanity; Charles Kinahan, for services to the university and to architectural heritage in Northern Ireland.
Doctor of literature: Edith Devlin, for services to adult education; Jennifer Johnston, for distinction in literature.
Doctor of science: Peter McKie, for services to the chemical industry and to business and education in Northern Ireland; Alexander Schwarzkopf, for services to industry-university co-operation; Victor Milligan, for services to geotechnical engineering.
Doctor of social science: Sir Desmond Lorimer, for services to business and to the community in Northern Ireland.

Buckingham
The following to be awarded honorary degrees this month: Dr Laxmi Singhvi, High Commissioner for India (doctor of laws); Dame Beryl Grey, former prima ballerina (doctor of letters); Mr Charles Price, former US ambassador to UK (doctor of science), Professor Mark Blaug, former consultant professor at Buckingham (doctor of science); Commander John Fremantle, Lord Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire (doctor of the university); Sir Nigel Mobbs, Chairman of University Council (doctor of the university).

Leicester
The following to receive honorary degrees in July: Professor Malcolm Frazer, Director of the Council for National Academic Awards (doctor of science); Nigel Hawthorne, actor (master of arts), David Wright, poet (doctor of letters); Betty Boothroyd, Speaker of the House of Commons (doctor of laws); Michael Chamberlain, accountant (doctor of laws); Frank Hahn, professor of economics (doctor of letters); Clare Hollingworth, journalist (doctor of letters); Anne Maclaren, Director of the MRC Mammalian Development Unit (doctor of science); Martin Rees, professor of astronomy (doctor of science); Jeffrey Tate, conductor (doctor of music).

Churchill College

The 1993 Stephen Roskill Memorial Lecture was delivered on Wednesday, February 3, by Admiral Sir Julian Oswald, GCB, ADC, the Chief of Naval Staff and First Sea Lord, on the topic of 'Roskill Revisited: Maritime Strategy in the Twenty-first Century'. The Master, Professor A.N. Broers, presided. Among those present were:

Mr J G P Crowden, Admiral of the Fleet the Lord Lewin of Greenwich, the Right Hon the Lord Roskill and Lady Roskill and other members of the Roskill family; Professor the Lord Adrian and Lady Adrian, Sir Christopher France, Professor P Collinson, Admiral Sir Hugo White, Admiral Sir John Kerr, Professor Sir Harry and Lady Hinsley, Professor Sir Hermann and Lady Bondi, General Sir Charles Guthrie, Sir Robert Rhodes-James, Professor Richard Keynes and the Hon Mrs Keynes, Air Chief Marshal Sir Roger Palin, Air Marshal Sir John Thomson, Air Marshal Sir John Willis, Mr Moray Stewart, Vice Admiral E W Clexton Jnr, USN, and Mr Peter Snow.

Memorial services

The Rev Chandos Morgan
A service of thanksgiving for the life of the Rev Chandos Morgan was held yesterday at St Margaret's, Lothbury. The Bishop of Sodor and Man officiated and the Rev Tom Farrell led the prayers.

Mr Arden Morgan, son, and Miss Sophie Morgan, granddaughter, read the lessons. Commander Dan Donovan, RN, read from *Pilgrim's Progress* by John Bunyan and Sir Christopher Collett gave an address.

The Rev Charles Roderick
A service of thanksgiving for the life of the Rev Charles Roderick was held yesterday at St Luke's Church, Chelsea. The Rev D.R. Watson officiated and the prayers were led by the Rev Austen Williams. The Rev Gordon Taylor read the lesson and Prebendary Harold Loasby read from the works of Arthur Bryant.

Sir William Mansfield Cooper
A memorial service for Sir William Mansfield Cooper, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Manchester from 1956-70, is to be held in St Ann's Church, Manchester, on Wednesday, March 3, 1993, at 2.30pm.

Ronald Graeme Macbeth
A Memorial Service for Ronald Graeme Macbeth, MA, DM, BM BCh, FRCS Edin & Eng, Orielensis 1922-25, Director of the Department of Otolaryngology, The Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford 1933-68, will be held in Oriel College Chapel on Saturday, February 20, 1993, at 2.30pm.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Sir Robert Peel, Prime Minister 1834-35 and 1841-46, Bury, Lancashire, 1788; Dwight Moody, evangelist, East Northfield, Massachusetts, 1837; John Boyd Dunlop, pioneer of the pneumatic tyre, Dreghorn, Strathclyde, 1840; Captain W.E. Johns, author, Hertford, 1893; Adlai Stevenson, American statesman, Los Angeles, 1900.

DEATHS: Thomas Carlyle, writer and historian, London, 1881; A.B. (Banjo) Paterson, Australian folk poet and author of *Waltzing Matilda*, 1941; George Arliss, actor, London, 1946; H.M. Tomlinson, novelist and essayist, London, 1958; Emeric Pressburger, film producer, Suffolk, 1988.

Today's royal engagements

The Princess Royal, as Patron of SENSE, the National Deaf-Blind and Rubella Association, will visit Elmfield House, Greystoke Avenue, Westbury-on-Trym, at 11.35; and, as Patron of the National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux, will visit the Northavon Bureau, Yate Leisure Centre, Kennedy Way, at 1.05.

Church news

Church in Wales
Diocese of Monmouth
The Rev Canon Peter Wilfred Woodman, Vicar of the Caerwent group of parishes, to be *also* Archdeacon of Monmouth.

TEL: 071 481 4000 **PERSONAL COLUMN** FAX: 071 481 9313

And this is my prayer, that your love may grow ever richer in knowledge and insight of every kind, enabling you to learn by experience what things really matter.
Philippians 1:9,10 (REB)

BIRTHS

ARMSTRONG - On January 21st, to Annaclare (née Martin) and Philip, a son, Jack William Littledale.

DAWNAY - On January 31st, at St Mary's, Paddington, to Rachel (née Johnson) and Ivo, a son, Ludovic James Payan.

EVANS - On 3rd February, to Sara (née Hollingworth) and Andrew, a son, Rupert John Hollingworth.

EVERARD - On January 19th in Nairobi, Kenya, to Catherine (née Horsley) and Christopher, a massive son, Anthony Gordon Patrick, the first-born.

LLOYD GEORGE - On February 3rd, in Hong Kong, to Donna (née Hufty) and Robert, a daughter (Julia), a sister for Ricky and Alice.

MITCHELL - On February 2nd 1993, at the West Middlesex Hospital, to Jenny (née Bissett) and Lloyd, a daughter, Hannah Fiona.

NATHAN - On February 1st, to Donna (née Rubin) and Jeremy, a daughter, Michaela Louise, in Hong Kong, a sister for Charlotte.

SHARP - On January 28th, to Charlotte (née Snagge) and William, a son, Thomas.

WHARTON - On 4th February at Bristol Maternity Hospital, to Fiona (née Scarf) and Robert, a daughter, Alexandra Rose, a sister for Camilla and Henrietta.

MARRIAGES

ALFORD:MARETICH - On January 24th in San Francisco, Michael Alford, son of the late Colonel J.R. Alford and Mrs Patricia Alford of France, to Marta Maretich, daughter of Mr and Mrs Maretich of Los Angeles.

DEATHS

BENNETT - On Tuesday 2nd February 1993, peacefully at Stratford Hospital, Jill (née Nelson), dearly loved by her family and friends. Private cremation. Flowers or donations for MIND may be sent to A.E. Bennett & Sons, 34 Sheep Street, Stratford-on-Avon, Warwicks. A Thanksgiving Service will be held at St Nicholas' Church, Henley-in-Arden, on Saturday 27th February at 2.30 pm.

BLUNDELL - Sir Michael K.B.E., on 1st February 1993, peacefully at his home in Nairobi, beloved father of Susan and grandfather of Emma and Georgina.

BUTLER - On February 4th, peacefully in her cot, Augusta Rose, after three precious weeks of life. Beloved daughter of Edward and Sophie. Family funeral.

COLLINS - On 1st February at Shottendane Nursing Home, Eva Dorothy Phyllis, aged 95 years, widow of Percy Edmund. Funeral noon, Wednesday 10th February at Margate Crematorium.

COPELAND - Tom and Natalie (née Dymore-Brown) peacefully together at home following a long painful illness. Greatly missed by their daughter Felicity. Funeral Service at St Mary's, Primrose Hill, NW3, on Friday February 12th at 12 noon. By request no flowers. Enquiries regarding donations to Leverton & Sons Ltd., tel. (071) 387-6075.

DAVIS - Derek Russell aged 78 years, peacefully at home in Bristol, on 3rd February. Husband of Marit, father of Jan and Vivian. Funeral Service at Cotham Parish Church, Bristol, on Wednesday 10th February at 12 noon. Family flowers only. Donations to St Peter's Hospice c/o R. Davies & Son, 381 Gloucester Road, Horfield, Bristol, BS7 8TN, tel: (0272) 424039

EGERTON - On February 2nd, quietly in her sleep, Dr. Mary Elizabeth Egerton F.R.C.O.G., aged 86. Beloved aunt, great-aunt, cousin and friend. Funeral at St Barnabas Church, Weeke, Winchester, on Tuesday February 9th at 1.30 pm, followed by cremation. Flowers to Jno Steel and Son, Chesil House, 6 Chesil Street, Winchester. (0962) 844044.

FLOWER - On February 2nd 1993, Vera Mary (Vee), of Chilmark, Salisbury, peacefully in Odstock Hospital in her 91st year, much loved aunt and friend to many. Cremation private. Thanksgiving Service at St Margaret's Church, Chilmark, on Thursday February 18th at 2.30 pm. Donations may be given to Blue Cross Animal Welfare c/o D.K. Shergold, 159-161 Fisherton Street, Salisbury, SP2 7RP.

GOFFE - Megan Olivia, peacefully at home on 3rd February 1993. Funeral 3.15 pm on Tuesday 9th February at St Mary's, Brixham. Megan's wish please, family flowers only, donations to N.C.C.P.G. Details, Stockman (0803) 882385.

GRANT - On January 29th, suddenly in hospital, John Adrian, M.V.O. aged 77 of Earls Court, London. Beloved husband of Diana and father of Penelope. Memorial Service to be announced at a later date.

HILL - On February 3rd 1993, peacefully after a long illness, borne with great courage, Colonel Peter Rowland Hill O.B.E. aged 85 years. Devoted husband of his dear departed Betty, much loved father of Andrew and Elizabeth and the loving grandfather of Laura, James, Louise and Amanda. Funeral Service on Thursday February 11th at 3pm at the Chilterns Crematorium, Amersham. Family flowers only, but donations if wished to The Hospice of St Francis, 27 Shrublands Road, Berkhamsted, Herts. Enquiries to J. Worley (Funeral Directors) Ltd. 0442-870326.

HILL - On February 3rd 1993, peacefully at St Martin's Hospital, Bath, aged 76. Formerly of Madras and Bangalore, South India. Father of Sandra, Maureen and David. So loved and remembered by all his family. Funeral Service on Wednesday 10th February at St Mary's Church, Nantwich, Cheshire. Enquiries and flowers to Funeral Directors, F.J. Tressider tel: (0270) 626653 or donations to The Great Ormond Street Hospital Appeal.

LEIPER - Suddenly but peacefully at A.R.I. on Tuesday February 2nd 1993, Mrs Sybil Mary Leiper, M.B.E. (née Swift), dear wife of the late Gerald Andrew Leiper, and loving aunt, great-aunt and great great-aunt. Funeral Service at Aberdeen Crematorium Hazlehead (East Chapel) on Tuesday February 9th at 2pm. All friends are respectfully invited. Family flowers only please. Donations in lieu if desired to her three nominated charities, c/o Mr Brodie, Ledingham Chalmers Solicitors, 17 Golden Square, Aberdeen.

LEISTIKOW - On February 3rd 1993, Frederick Walter Rudolph aged 87. Dearly loved husband of Joan. Private cremation on Thursday February 11th. Date of a Memorial Service will be announced later.

LIPSCOMB - On 3rd February peacefully at Woodlands Park Retirement Home, Great Missenden, Bucks., Kathleen in her 92nd year, fortified by the rites of Holy Church. Dearly loved wife of the late Dr. George Lipscomb, beloved mother of Edwin Paul, John and the late Francis, devoted grandmother of Christopher, Catherine, Jonathan, Dominic and Tamasine. Funeral 10 am 8th February at St Joseph's Church, Brighouse, Yorks. Memorial Mass at St Anthony's, Farnham Royal, details to be announced later. R.I.P.

NEWTON - On January 31st 1993, Carol Anne, aged 47 years. The dear Mother of Oliver. Requiem Mass at St Mary Magdalens Roman Catholic Church, Upper North Street, Brighton, on Monday 15th February at 2pm followed by cremation. Flowers and enquiries to Nigel Dengate, 143 Sackville Road, Hove, tel: Brighton (0273) 204410.

PORTEUS - Enquiries about Hugh Gordon Porteus, who died January 23rd, to Stuart Porteus, 20 Glenmoor, Eckington, Pershore, Worcs. WR10 3BW.

RYAN - On February 2nd, Dr. Frank, lately Civilian Medical Practitioner, Royal Air Force, Stanmore Park. Bentley Priory, aged 81, beloved husband of Frances and father of Jennifer Anne. Requiem Mass 9 am February 8th at St William of York Church, Du Cros Drive, Stanmore and followed by interment at Harrow Weald Cemetery. Family flowers only please but if desired donations to the Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund.

SCOBIE - On February 1st, peacefully in hospital, Elizabeth Cowie Young, aged 89 years, after a courageous fight against blindness. Mother of Nancy and Alex. Funeral Service on Monday February 8th at Colchester Crematorium at 12 noon. No flowers. Donations please to British Retinitis Pigmentosa Society, c/o Mrs L. Cantor, PO Box 350, Buckingham, MK18 5AS.

SMISSON - Bernard, passed peacefully away at home on Thursday January 28th 1993. Funeral Service was held in Bristol on Thursday February 4th. Donations if desired to Oxfam c/o CRS Funeral Services, 20 High Street, Westbury on Trym, Bristol. Telephone (0272) 507494.

TENNENT - On January 30th 1993, peacefully at home in Lymington, Doris Evelyn (Doll), aged 92. Beloved wife of the late Commander Hugh P.L. Tennent R.N. Dearly loved mother of Trisha and Hugh, loving "Gah" to Bruce, Robin, Robert and Ally, devoted "Great Gah" to Elizabeth, Timothy and Charlotte. Funeral Service at St John the Baptist Church, Boldre, on Friday February 12th 1993 at 2.30 pm, followed by private cremation. Family flowers only please. Donations, if desired, for either the R.N.L.I. or British Heart Foundation may be sent c/o F.W. House and Sons. F/D., Lymington, Hampshire.

VERNEY - On February 2nd 1993, peacefully at home at Clare, Sir John Verney Bt. M.C., writer and painter aged 79. Beloved husband of Lucinda and much loved father and grandfather. Private family funeral at Middle Claydon, Bucks. Service of Thanksgiving in Clare, on a date to be announced later.

WALKER - Very suddenly on 30th January 1993, Ian A. Walker. Dearly loved husband of Norma and loving father of Simon, Paul and Laura. Cremation at Chelmsford Crematorium on Monday 8th February at 2pm. No flowers please. Donations if desired to British Heart Foundation.

WALKER - On 2nd February, at home in Wimbledon, Helen Myra (née Meyrick) aged 89. Widow of M.L. Walker and mother of Anthony and Christopher.

WATSON - On February 1st 1993, tragically in London, of East Keswick, Leeds, Gillian Ruth (Gillie) aged 21 years. Beloved daughter of Christopher and Wendy, adored sister of Peter and much loved granddaughter of Ruth and Dick Crawshaw. The funeral service and burial will take place at St Mary Magdalene Church, East Keswick, Leeds, on Wednesday February 10th at 1 pm. Flowers may be sent to G.E. Hartley & Son, 26 Main Street, Thorner, Leeds LS14 3DX. tel: (0532) 892354.

WISDOM - On January 30th 1993, at Wilmont, Wexford, in his sleep, John Oulton, Philosopher, aged 84. Beloved husband, father and grandfather. The funeral took place at Ardcolm.

WOOD - Ernest Alan, M.D., M.R.C.P., aged 88, loved and loving husband of Eve and Jo's dear Daddy. Funeral at Hastings Crematorium 12 noon on February 10th. Please no flowers. Donations, if desired, to R.N.L.I. may be sent to A.C. Towner Ltd., 2 & 4 Norman Road, St Leonards-on-Sea, East Sussex.

WOOLSTON - On January 31st 1993, Lavin F.H. (Wool) Major R.E.M.E. retired, aged 80 years. Funeral Service at Taunton, Deane Crematorium on Monday February 8th at 10.30 am. No flowers by request. Donations if desired for The Coronary Care Unit, Musgrove Park Hospital, Taunton, may be sent to Messrs E. White & Son Ltd. Funeral Directors, 138/139 East Reach, Taunton TA1 3HN.

WULKAU - Gunter, Co Founder of Drayton Manor School. Late of Brixham, Devon, passed away suddenly on 2nd February 1993. He will be sadly missed. All enquiries to Alexander & Dry, 1 Seal Road, Basingstoke. tel: (0256) 844663.

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OPPÉ - A Service of Thanksgiving will be held for Denys Lyonel Tollemache Oppé, MBE, at Chelsea Old Church, Old Church Street, London, on Thursday 25th February at 12 noon.

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OBITUARIES

SIR JOHN VERNEY, Bt

Sir John Verney, Bt, MC, author and artist, died on February 2 aged 79. He was born on September 30, 1913.



NOTORIOUSLY, the second world war produced less good literature than the first, but John Verney's military experiences in the second inspired him to write one of its few masterpieces, *Going to the Wars*. His greatest gift was probably for authorship, yet he wrote fewer books than he might have done during his life, mainly because he was also a talented and prolific artist in a variety of genres. In addition, he served for a time, very effectively, in local government.

His father was a traditional English public servant, secretary to a viceroy of India (Chelmsford) and then to successive Speakers of the House of Commons for over 30 years, retiring with the baronetcy which Verney inherited in 1959. His mother was an Australian of strong character and substantial means.

After spending part of his childhood in India he was educated at Eton, where he had the advantage of being in George Lyttelton's house (a cultural oasis among Oppidan houses) and later at Christ Church, Oxford, where he took a degree in modern history. Until the outbreak of war he worked as an assistant film director with such stars as Charles Laughton and Robert Donat while, in his spare time, going on manoeuvres as a Territorial officer.

In the war itself he went abroad with his Territorial regiment, the North Somerset Yeomanry, with which he fought in Palestine and Syria. Then he transferred to the SAS and was dropped in Sardinia, where he helped to destroy a number of enemy aircraft on the ground before being taken prisoner. Moved to the Italian mainland, he escaped and hid for several months in the Abruzzi mountains, under the protection and care of local inhabitants whom he revisited after the war. At length he reached the Eighth Army lines, and later served in France and Germany. By the end of the war he had the MC, two mentions in dispatches and the Legion of Honour.

Going to the Wars (1955; last reissued in paperback 1983) gives a supremely vivid, but also subtle, witty and self-deprecating, account of his life in the army before the Sardinian exploit, of the exploit itself, and of his escape. In a sequel, *A Dinner of Herbs* (1966), he describes his return to Italy and the Italians who looked after him. The two books together form a remarkable diptych.

In 1939 Verney had married the love of his life, Jan Lucinda Musgrave, and for many years after the war they lived at Runwick House, on the western outskirts of Farnham, raising a large family. Verney spent much of his time painting, which he regarded as his principal vocation. He painted in oils but perhaps his best work is in watercolour. His landscapes and scenes from life were often exhibited, and they have found lasting favour. He also turned his hand, with considerable success, to pottery and (later) to painting furniture.

Apart from his war books, he published a book of travel pieces, *Verney Abroad* (1954), and a novel, *Every Advantage* (1961), in which he drew a little on his early memories of India. He also wrote delightful children's stories, including *Friday's Tunnel* (1959), *February's Road* (1961) and *ismo* (1964), which were enhanced by his own illustrations. He provided eagerly awaited cover pictures for the children's monthly *Young Elizabethan* (formerly *Collins Magazine*) which he also edited for a time in the late 1950s.

While at Farnham he was elected to the council as an Independent, and his work on it was most fruitful. He had already been the moving spirit behind the formation of the Farnham Society to defend local amenities, a task to which he devoted himself relentlessly as a councillor. He brought Farnham Castle back to life and saved the Farnham Maltings, which was then developed as an exemplary community centre.

In 1977 the Verneys moved to Clare in Suffolk. In the early 1980s he was chairman of the Gainsborough House Society, at a time when the curator and secretary of the house (at Sudbury) had resigned. For a year he more or less ran the place, while recruiting a new team.

For many years an annual and characteristic Verney product has been the Dodo Pad, a diary enlivened by his jokes and drawings and odd scraps of information. It has been much in demand as a Christmas present. Since last year his daughter Rose has taken charge of it, and if it becomes an institution, as it should do, it will be a good living memorial to him.

In 1983 he happened to see on television a picture which had been stolen from his mother's London flat years before, slashed out of its frame (which he had kept). It had been found by police raiding a house in Basildon for drugs. After restoration at the Hamilton Kerr Institute it was recognised as an authentic Vandyck of Sir Edmund Verney, Charles I's standard bearer, killed at Edgehill. It is now on loan to the National Portrait Gallery.

In spirit Verney had much in common with his Cavalier ancestors. His shabby appearance and world-weary manner were an amusing disguise. Of one of the characters in *Going to the Wars* he writes: "Like many cynics he was perhaps a romantic at heart." Verney's own cynicism was on the surface, but his romanticism was deep, as were his humour and benevolence. He was a justly loved man, and the homes that he and Jan created and shared over more than 50 years radiated warmth, enjoyment and fun.

His elder son, Julian, died at the age of eight in 1948, the worst trauma in his life. He is survived by his wife, his five daughters and his younger son, Sebastian, who succeeds to the baronetcy.

PETER ORCHARD

Peter Orchard, CBE, chairman of the currency printing company, De La Rue, died on January 28 aged 65. He was born on March 25, 1927.



FOR most of his life Peter Orchard had a licence to print money and relished it. Having joined the banknote printing and cash-handling machine group in 1950 he spent 42 years there as its fortunes ebbed and flowed. While he was chairman, the De La Rue group fought off take-over bids, the covetous attentions of Robert Maxwell and effectively sold off non-core loss making activities, leaving itself free to concentrate on supplying banknotes, cheque-books and automated paying systems.

De La Rue is the dominant force in banknote printing, with a 70 per share of the world business, supplying about ninety countries. But it was occasionally vulnerable to takeover bids. Rank made an attempt to gain control in 1963 and in 1986, Maxwell Communications paid £115 million for a 21.7 per cent stake.

In July 1990 Orchard had a set-piece confrontation with the controversial publisher drawing applause from shareholders when he said flatly that De La Rue had no intention of granting Maxwell a seat on the board. Three months later Maxwell Communications sold its stake in De La Rue for £74 million.

Two years later, after some years of almost free-fall decline, Orchard saw the group's profits register a pre-tax half-year profit of 48 per cent to £46 million.

Peter Orchard was educated at Downside, where he was a scholar, and at Magdalene College, Cambridge, where he gained first class honours in the Classical Tripos. From 1944 to 1948 he served in the 60th Rifles and as an instructor in the School of Infantry.

An accomplished linguist, he initially specialised in the De La Rue group's Spanish and Portuguese operations, becoming managing director in Brazil in 1959 at the age of 32. Three years later he took charge of Thomas De La Rue International and in 1963 joined the main board. He was chief executive for ten years from 1977, becoming chairman in 1987 in succession to Sir Arthur Norman.

As a businessman Orchard retained and used the instincts of a scholar. His knowledge of all aspects of the group became encyclopaedic; his prose, even when drafting the simplest notice, was vigorous and elegant. He encouraged initiative in his subordinates but would have nothing to do with the second rate.

Away from business his interests were wide. He was a keen sportsman, with a strong enthusiasm for cricket and rugby, and was a member of the Court of Assistants of the Drapers' Company and an honorary colonel, 71st (Yeomanry) Signal Regiment.

Peter Orchard is survived by his wife, Helen, two sons and two daughters.

FRANCOIS REICHENBACH

François Reichenbach, French film maker, died on February 2 at the American hospital in Paris aged 71. He was born in Paris on July 3, 1921.

ONE of the masters of French documentary film-making, François Reichenbach can also be counted among the early exponents of *cinéma vérité*. To his work he brought a reporter's eye for hard facts. But this went in tandem with an ironical nature and a proclivity to explore life's by-ways. These qualities gave his films a distinctive cast.

Though his early work was honoured in France he was, in some respects, not typically French as a film maker. It was America, north, central and south, which gave him his most potent images. The early shorts and his award-winning feature *L'Amérique insolite* (Unusual America, 1960) brought back from the United States disturbing pictures of daily life there. True, from a creative point of view there were dangers inherent in this revelling in the bizarre. The sensational was also highly commercial, and some of Reichenbach's critics felt his later work teetered perilously on the brink of the middle-brow.

After a lycée education Reichenbach began his working life as an adviser to American art buyers. He also had some success as a song-writer and wrote lyrics for, among others, Edith Piaf. After acquiring a 16mm camera he was encouraged to take himself seriously by his uncle, the film producer Pierre Braunberger. He went to America where he made his first short documentary, *Impressions de New York*, in 1955. It was the first of a number of works which dealt with American life and for which he was often his own cameraman. *Les Marines* was striking for its unsparing view of that elite American corps.

But it was with *L'Amérique insolite* that he came to international notice. Released in the English-speaking world under the catchy but misleading title, *America Through the Keyhole*, it cast a fascinated, European glance over the hectic nightscape of Las Vegas, the mental vacuity of Disneyland and the eerie freneticism of Los Angeles. Among its more unusual ingredients was the "rodeo of the condemned", which showed inmates of Texan prisons competing for a first prize of a year's remission of sentence. The pathos and sometimes haunting beauty of the film won Reichenbach the best documentary award at the 1960 Cannes festival.

After his American successes, Reichenbach returned to France. There he familiarised himself with the world of boxing, and his second feature length film, *Un Coeur gros comme ça*, described the experience of the black boxer Abdullah Faye in Paris. Next, a portrayal of peasant life in Maine, *La Douceur de village*, won him the Grand Prix at Cannes in 1964.

America called again: there is divided opinion about the artistic merit of his series of portraits of individual celebrities, though none about their value as historical documents.

In 1966 his camera followed Brigitte Bardot round the United States on her first visit there, to produce *Voyage de Brigitte Bardot aux USA*. But his best-known film in this genre is *Arthur Rubinstein, l'amour de la vie* (1969). It was a success at Cannes and was nominated for an Academy award. A number of visits to Mexico gave rise to several films of which *Entends-tu les chiens aboyer?* (Do you hear the dogs bark?) became, in a new incarnation as *No oyes ladrar los perros?*, the Mexican entry for the Cannes Fesival of 1974.

America, which had brought Reichenbach's art to international attention, now exacted its price. *Sex O'Clock USA* (1975) — ostensibly an analysis of the sexual revolution — suggested seduction by, rather than control over, his material. This impression was confirmed by a subsequent attempt to film crime on the streets *en direct* in Houston, a town of spectacular criminality. What had been evocative images now tended towards the purely sensational. Even his most ardent admirers felt that Reichenbach had become complacent and commercial. It was a relief, therefore, when *Le Japon insolite* (Unknown Japan, 1981), which made some thought-provoking connections between Japanese traditions and the country's future, suggested that his creative faculties had, perhaps, only been slumbering.

Reichenbach, who remained a bachelor, was a chevalier of the Legion of Honour in France, while an appreciative Mexico made him an Aztec Eagle.

ALEXANDER SCHNEIDER

Alexander Schneider, Russian-born American violinist and conductor, died in New York on February 2 aged 84. He was born in Vilna (then a city of the Russian Empire, now Vilnius, Lithuania) on October 21, 1908.

IN ALEXANDER Schneider musicality and apparently boundless energy were indivisible. As a violinist, his readings of the classics may not be remembered for their subtlety. But in their sheer ebullition they had an infectious quality which made him one of the great ambassadors of music to audiences young and old. Indeed, it is not too much to say that many to whom classical music had until then been a matter of total indifference had their minds suddenly opened to its riches on hearing him play. This was particularly true of America which became his adopted country and which owes him so much. There he was both loved for the sheer sense of enjoyment which he brought to execution — whether as a soloist or leader of an ensemble — and valued as a man whose tireless organising of festivals and events, and considerable financial help for young artists, immeasurably enriched the musical life of the nation. In many ways, the secret of his capacity perpetually to delight was that he never lost the carefree zest he had brought to his youthful performances as a fiddler in Vilna's cafes.

Yet he never neglected his European roots. He was one of the founding fathers of the festival formed at Prades, near Perpignan, in 1950, which persuaded Casals to come out of retirement. More recently he had helped in the formation and development of the Chamber Orchestra of Europe. It is due to him, in collaboration with Claudio Abbado, that this group has become acknowledged as one of the most disciplined and enthusiastic orchestras of the day. Superficially the most genial of men, Schneider was a strict taskmaster whose wisdom and profound knowledge of the classical repertoire influenced generations of string players.

Schneider entered the Vilna Conservatory at the age of ten. At 16 he moved to Frankfurt. A player of astonishing precocity he was almost immediately made leader of the Frankfurt Museum Orchestra. He worked his way up through the hierarchy of German musical centres, playing and conducting in a number of centres before joining the famed Budapest Quartet as second violin in 1932, with his elder brother, Mischa, as cellist. He toured extensively with the Budapest, whose reputation was as high as any string quartet before the war. The group also made many records. In 1939 it settled in the United States.

In 1944 Schneider left the quartet but played in various other combinations, most notably forming duos with the keyboard players, Ralph Kirkpatrick and Eugene Istomin. He also led a chamber orchestra in New York. His first conducting assignment was with the Dumbarton Oaks Chamber Orchestra in 1944. From 1950 he became closely associated with Casals. Besides the formation of the legendary Prades Festival, he took part in festivals with the famous cellist in Perpignan; Marlboro, Massachusetts; and Israel, both as a violinist and as a conductor. He directed a notable series of recordings by Serkin of the Mozart concertos in the 1950s.

Meanwhile he had become leader of his own quartet. As such he was an indefatigable proselytiser for the string quartets of Haydn, which were then little played. His quartet performed and recorded the entire corpus of Haydn quartets, a truly pioneering effort. In 1955 Schneider was back again with the Budapest quartet, and remained with it until it disbanded in 1964 — the end of an era. He was also active as a teacher and adviser to student violinists at seminars and summer schools, and he took part in the Mostly Mozart festivals in New York.

In 1972, he formed the Brandenburg Players, but the most notable achievement of his later years was the Chamber Orchestra of Europe. He lovingly coached and conducted his young charges with an energy and enthusiasm that belied his years. In the 1980s he brought the group to London where he was always welcome. His total influence on Europe's and America's musical life throughout a long, fruitful career is incalculable.



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INJUSTICE.

Not a sitting of the Central Criminal Court can apparently be gone through without furnishing some striking instance of the disparity between crimes and punishments. If we take a comparative view of the sentences that are passed in a single day at the Old Bailey, we shall find that some offences of minor degree are very severely visited by the law, while there is almost impunity for crimes of the gravest description. There does not occur often such a flagrant violation of all the principles of equity as we find recorded under the head of Central Criminal Court in our paper of yesterday. One culprit had stolen a letter containing half a guinea: the other had terminated a long course of brutality towards his own wife by giving her a blow or a kick which had proved fatal. A person entrusted with a letter, and tempted to take from it half-a-guinea, cannot be regarded in the same light as the ruffian who ill-uses by habit the woman he has sworn to love and protect, and happening one day to go a little too far, deprives her of existence.

There ought indeed to be a strong contrast between the respective punishments of two such malefactors as the destroyer of human life — the victim being his own wife — and the paltry pilferer of money from a letter.

It will startle the reader to be told that the perpetrator of manslaughter came off considerably better than the thief who had stolen to the extent of ten shillings. The letter carrier was sentenced to be transported for ten years, and the man convicted of killing his wife was let off with nine months' hard labour. We will say nothing of undue severity in the first case; but it is impossible to say enough of the leniency shown in dealing with the second. The jury, it is true, recommended the prisoner in the latter case to mercy on "account of his age". But the Judge should have scouted a recommendation founded on no reasonable principle. The man was not thought too old for hard labour, and he might, therefore, well have endured some more lasting and more severe punishment. If he had still vigour for the exercise of the ruffianism generally to be found in the ungovernable passion of youth, he ought not to be allowed the shelter of old age. The want of protection afforded to wives in the lower class, against the violence of their husbands, is exemplified by the numerous cases of ill-treatment with which the criminal courts are occupied.

ON THIS DAY

February 5 1847

This example of injustice, not unusual at the time, we are told, may make public opinion these days feel slightly less guilty about shortcomings in the legal system.

NEWS

Germans lift pressure on pound

■ The Bundesbank lifted pressure on the pound yesterday by cutting two key interest rates in a surprise decision which was apparently aimed at saving the exchange-rate mechanism.

The Germans cut 0.5 per cent from their Lombard rate and 0.25 per cent from the more important discount rate. The Chancellor of the Exchequer suggested that the cut was "something that I think should have taken place somewhat earlier" ..... **Pages 1, 15, 19, 23**

Lords allow Hillsborough man to die

■ The House of Lords has ruled that doctors caring for Tony Bland, the comatose Hillsborough disaster victim, can switch off his feeding system and allow him to die. Doctors said he would not starve to death but would "slip away peacefully" as a result of renal failure or infection ..... **Pages 1, 3**

Sub cuts fear

Controversial new proposals being considered by ministers could result in four new £500 million diesel-powered submarines being scrapped or sold. The recommendation to rely solely on nuclear-powered submarines comes as part of a cost-cutting exercise initiated by the ministry of defence ..... **Page 1**

Workfare hint

John Major, reasserting his determination to inject an element of workfare into schemes for the unemployed, told the House of Commons that he would not shy away from considering radical options ..... **Pages 1, 4**

King to quit

Lord King will tell his fellow British Airways board members today that he is prepared to resign. Since Richard Branson won £610,000 in libel damages as a result of allegations of BA "dirty tricks", Lord King has been under pressure to step down ..... **Page 2**

Hoover cleared

Jacques Delors, the president of the European Commission, has told union leaders at the French Hoover plant that there was nothing the EC could do to stop the company moving from France to Scotland ..... **Page 8**

Clinton cuts

Among enormous cuts in defence spending President Clinton intends to halve the 200,000 American troops currently stationed in Europe ..... **Page 11**

Mare attacked

A brood mare, expected to foal in two months has fallen victim of a series of sexual attacks on horses in southern England. The animal was assaulted in a field at Upham near Fareham, Hampshire ..... **Page 2**

Danish poll

The Danes will hold a referendum for the second time to decide the future of the Maastricht treaty on May 18, it was announced yesterday ..... **Page 8**

Peat mystery

Police in France and Ireland are trying to identify the body of a man, naked from the waist up, found in a container-load of peat exported from the Republic to Rouen ..... **Page 6**

Cars boosted

Sales of cars last month jumped by 7.3 per cent on the same month last year and falling interest rates were credited with the boost ..... **Page 5**

Talks gloom

Multilateral negotiations designed to focus on specific problems arising out of the Middle East peace process have been postponed indefinitely, casting doubts on the future of the whole effort ..... **Page 11**

No DAF cash

John Major will not spend taxpayers' money to provide working capital to companies suffering difficulties, including Leyland DAF ..... **Page 2**

Please don't insult the animals

■ In deference to the sensibilities of 10,000 animals kept in captivity throughout the city, and after two years of bitter debate, the New York Zoological Society is to drop the "insulting" word zoo in favour of "wildlife conservation park". The change will reflect altered perceptions about protecting endangered animals ..... **Page 11**



Down yonder: Sir Ranulph Fiennes, right and Michael Stroud, at the South Pole on their walk across Antarctica. Report page 3

BUSINESS

Decision at DAF: Today's pay packet could be the last for the 5,500 workers at Leyland DAF, the troubled British truck-maker, as the administrative receivers prepare for a decision at the weekend on whether production will continue on Monday ..... **Page 19**

Inflation threat: The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development gave warning that the government must not sacrifice its medium-term aim of low inflation to support economic growth ..... **Page 21**

Markets: Shares touched new highs but fell after the Bundesbank signalled lower interest rates. The FT-SE 100 index closed down 7.9 at 2,865.9 having breached 2,900 in earlier trading. The pound rose 3 pfennigs to DM2.3921 but closed unchanged against the dollar at $1.4430 ..... **Page 22**

SPORT

Golf: With the help of regular sips of mineral water between every shot, Nick Faldo overcame the sweltering conditions of the Singapore Island Country Club to score a three-under-par 67 and share the first-round lead of the Johnnie Walker Classic with three others ..... **Page 32**

Snooker: Stephen Hendry, who set himself a target of ten tournament wins this season, has been forced off course by a combination of inspired opponents, ill fortune, death threats and a gradual loss of confidence ..... **Page 32**

MODERN TIMES

Golden age: It was safe, fast and comfortable. As the Rev W Awdry, the author and train buff, put it: "There are two ways of running a railway; the Great Western way and the wrong way." Julian Critchley on the GWR ..... **Page 12**

Plenty of drama: Simon Gray has a resolutely rumpled appearance. He does not drive a car or put on a dinner jacket, except when receiving awards. He no longer takes "bottled inspiration" from Glenfiddich — doctor's orders — but as he says, the first glass of champagne before lunch is "the closest most of us get to happiness, especially after a certain age". Valerie Grove interview ..... **Page 13**

BUSINESS

Long service: British and Danish researchers claim that a new method of road building will reduce the need for maintenance. The engineers believe that roads normally likely to last 20 years could hold up for as long as 40 ..... **Page 30**

RECITER

Flying solo: Although the middle of a recession may not be the ideal time to turn freelance, full-timers in information technology can no longer bank on the industry offering the secure career ..... **Page 28**

Word perfect: In a few years' time a new service will make it unnecessary to speak a foreign language when phoning abroad ..... **Page 29**

ARTS

Tate teasers: the Tate Gallery's annual rehang not only reveals half-forgotten treasures, but also reminds us of how much the gallery will gain when it is eventually devoted to British art ..... **Page 25**

Lost in the forest: the new musical *Robin, Prince of Sherwood* is full of swagger and loud music, but light on excitement ..... **Page 26**

Dutch treats: the offerings at the Rotterdam Film Festival are for the most part quirky, even oddball ..... **Page 27**

Dancing all night: Birmingham Royal Ballet has opened its London season with a mixed bill of six works, an unusually generous feast for dance lovers ..... **Page 27**

PEOPLE IN THE TIMES



Ricki Kendall is one of ten people from two families ordered to leave Israel because they belong to the Messianic Jews sect
Page 11



Jack Straw has attacked the royal family as "deeply decadent" in a report in the left-wing newspaper, *Tribune*.2
Page 2



Anna Moore, a Catholic serving life for a bombing which killed 17 people, is to marry Bobby Corry, a Protestant serving life for bombing a pub
Page 6



Martin Donnelly was back at the wheel of a Formula One car yesterday for the first time since he was critically injured in Spain in 1990
Page 34

TV LISTINGS

Larry Kramer, the American writer and tireless campaigner on behalf of Aids victims, is profiled in *Arena* (BBC2, 9.30pm) ..... **Page 35**

OPINION

Ill at ease

John Major deserved more from his speech to the Carlton Club than a day's discussion on whether the unemployed should work for their welfare cheques. His speech aimed at the "longer term", a remote outpost of Mr Major's world which, by his own admission, he has visited too little. It struck a chord among traditional Conservatives that may bring him great personal benefits in future ..... **Page 15**

The light fantastic

Early yesterday morning, a pale beam of sunlight reflected from a Russian space rocket panned across western Europe, harnessing the primitive forces of the heavens to defy the last moments of the night. This fantastic mission was the first breakthrough of a new world market in technological ideas ..... **Page 15**

COLUMNS

BERNARD LEVIN

Would you want a Britain in which politicians not only run the country but also constitute the last resort of our democracy? If there is no check and balance above politicians, however constitutionally bound, just stop and think what chicanery, what partiality, what mendacity, what pomposity, what dishonesty, what impudence, greed, folly, crookedness, vainglory, nest-feathering, excuses and plain bloody robbery would be practised on a helpless nation ..... **Page 14**

JANET DALEY

The irony — or the tragedy — of British economic life is that half of what everybody is saying is right, or at least coherent. What many people want are real jobs in a real (which is to say, a capitalist) economy. Those who don't are a different sort of social problem who will not march off happily to plant trees any more than they would present themselves for real jobs even if they existed ..... **Page 14**

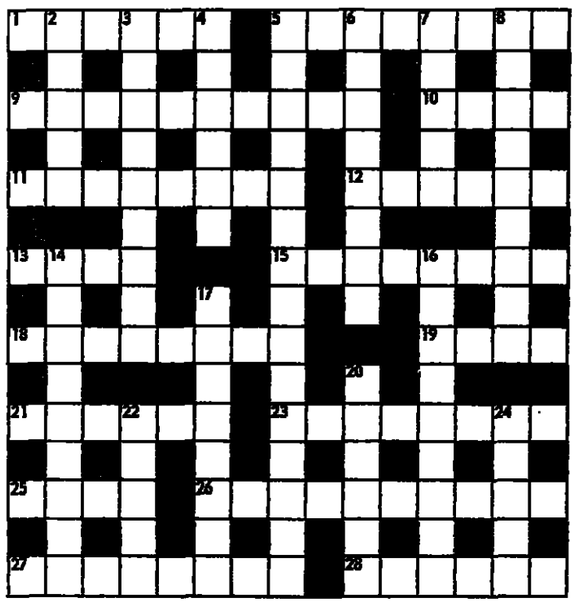
LETTERS

On the centenary of W. E. Johns's birth, correspondents discuss his romantic life and the possible prototype for an old enemy ... **Page 15**

THE PAPERS

Protectionism feeds on world recession, sluggish growth and unemployment. Mr Clinton must go for growth, abroad as well as at home.
The New York Times

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,146



ACROSS

1 Diamonds are a help when dating (6)
5 Demanding type making a lot of noise about one (8)
9 Poet expresses a certain value (10)
10 Expression of disapproval you heard — such a short skirt! (4)
11 In England, name one Italian composer (8)
12 Kind mother, so-called (6)
13 Light blows returned in petty quarrel (4)
15 Peter, after crash, intended to have accident protection (4-4)
18 Where countries meet for complex interchange (8)
19 Musical tom-tom? (4)
21 Succeeded with anything attempted (6)
23 Vehicle turned and set out to be of assistance (8)
25 Bad-tempered, as a seal may be (4)
26 Place in university for bookish types (10)
27 Paid footballer for informative response (8)
28 Person going round the bend's an artist (6)

DOWN

2 A tribute to Coral Island (5)
3 It's no good China entering this game (9)
4 Old lawmaker's modern style (6)
5 Eccentric provided land and inspiration for sports ground (7,4,4)
6 Africans as hard opponents (8)
7 Music got together, including some biblical text (5)
8 Gain, clearly, from batting practice for match (3,6)
14 Sang opera pieces in ecclesiastical residence (9)
16 The next person hit gold (9)
17 It's a wire fixed up for climber (8)
20 Aim to express disapproval (6)
22 Made fun of conductor in audition (5)
24 Failing to catch all-rounder, say (5)

Solution to Puzzle No 19,145

B	U	R	G	E	S	S		Q	U	A	N	T	U	M
U		I		M		I		U		U		U		A
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Concise Crossword, page 36

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N E England	718
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M-ways/roads M23-M4	735
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National traffic and roadworks

National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
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WEATHER

Fog will affect southern England and Wales in the morning and will linger in some places. North Wales and western England will be cloudy, but eastern England should have some sunshine. There will be bright spells over much of Scotland and Northern Ireland, especially eastern Scotland, but the north and western coasts will be cloudy with rain or drizzle. Outlook: it will stay dry, with fog in many places. Rain in the far north.

ABROAD

MIDDAY: t=thunder; d=drizzle; fg=fog; s=sun; sl=sleet; sn=snow; f=fair; c=cloud; r=rain

	C	F			C	F	
Ajaccio	13	55	f	Madrid	8	46	f
Akrotiri	14	57	s	Majorca	14	57	f
Alex'dria	14	57	c	Malaga	15	59	f
Algiers	13	55	f	Malta	17	63	s
Amst'dm	3	37	d	Melb'rne	21	70	f
Athens	16	61	s	Mexico C*	17	63	f
Bahrain	15	59	r	Miami*	22	72	s
Bangkok	30	86	s	Milan	11	52	s
Barbados*	29	84	f	Montreal*	-1	30	c
Barcelona	11	52	f	Moscow	3	37	c
Beirut	12	54	s	Munich	4	39	s
Belgrade	-2	28	s	Naples	15	59	s
Berlin	5	41	s	N Delhi	21	70	s
Bermuda*	16	61	r	N York*	6	43	s
Biarritz	12	54	s	Nice	15	59	s
Borde'x	10	50	s	Oslo	11	52	f
Brussels	-1	30	fg	Paris	0	32	c
Budapst	-3	27	s	Peking	6	43	s
B Aires*	20	68	fg	Perth	31	88	s
Cairo	13	55	c	Prague	-3	27	s
Cape Tn	23	73	s	Reykjavik	-6	23	f
Chicago*	6	43	s	Rhodes	16	59	s
Ch'church	20	68	s	Rio de J	31	88	f
Cologne	4	39	s	Riyadh	14	57	f
C'phgn	7	45	c	Rome	15	59	s
Corfu	15	59	s	Salzburg	-1	30	s
Dublin	9	48	f	S F'isco*	12	54	f
Dubrovnik	15	59	f	Santiago*	29	84	s
Faro	15	59	c	S Paulo*	25	77	c
Florence	11	52	s	Seoul	7	45	s
Frankfurt	-3	27	sn	Sing'por	30	86	f
Funchal	17	63	f	St'kholm	9	48	f
Geneva	1	34	c	Strasb'rg	-1	30	c
Gibraltar	15	59	f	Sydney	35	97	s
Helsinki	6	43	c	Tangier	15	59	f
Hong K	24	75	s	Tel Aviv	9	48	f
Innsbruck	10	50	s	Tenerife	19	66	f
Istanbul	7	45	s	Tokyo	13	55	s
Jeddah	21	70	f	Toronto*	3	37	f
Jo'burg*	26	79	f	Tunis	15	59	f
L Palmas	17	63	f	Valencia	10	50	r
La Tquet	-1	30	fg	Venc'ver*	5	41	f
Lisbon	11	52	s	Venice	12	54	s
Locarno	10	50	s	Vienna	-2	28	fg
London	4	39	c	Warsaw	4	39	s
L Angels*	17	63	c	Wash'ton*	12	54	s
Luxembg	-3	27	fg	Wel'ton	17	63	f
Luxor	15	59	f	Zurich	0	32	c

* denotes figures are latest available

LONDON

Yesterday: Temp: max 6am to 6pm, 04C (39F), min 6pm to 6am, 03C (37F). Humidity: 6pm, 90 per cent. Rain: 24hr to 6pm, trace. Sun: 24hr to 6pm, nil. Bar, mean sea level, 6pm, 1,034.8 millibars, rising. 1,000 millibars=29.53in

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Wednesday: Highest day temp: Lossiemouth, Grampian, 14C (57F), lowest day max, Hemsby, Norfolk, Lowestoft and Wantisham, both Suffolk, 4C (39F); highest rainfall Cape Wrath, Highland, 0.66in, highest sunshine: Colwyn Bay, Clwyd, 7.0hr.

MANCHESTER

Yesterday: Temp: max 6am to 6pm, 09C (48F), min 6pm to 6am, 03C (39F). Rain: 24hr to 6pm, nil. Sun: 24hr to 6pm, 0.6hr.

GLASGOW

Yesterday: Temp: max 6am to 6pm, 10C (50F), min 6pm to 6am, 07C (45F). Rain: 24hr to 6pm, trace. Sun: 24hr to 6pm, nil.

AROUND BRITAIN

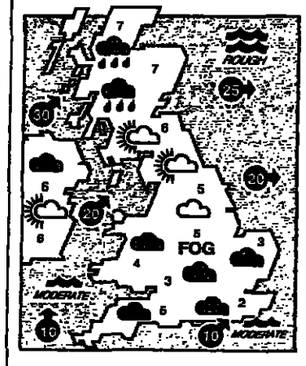
	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	0.2	-	12	54	cloudy
Anglesey	0.4	-	8	46	cloudy
Aviemore	-	0.06	9	48	rain
Belfast	-	-	8	46	cloudy
Birmingham	-	-	2	36	fog
Bognor Regis	-	-	2	36	dull
Bournemouth	-	-	3	37	dull
Bristol	-	-	4	39	bright
Buxton	-	-	5	41	cloudy
Cardiff	-	-	3	37	cloudy
Clacton	-	-	5	41	fog
Cromer	-	-	5	41	dull
Douglas	-	-	8	46	cloudy
Edinburgh	0.8	-	11	52	dull
Eskdalemuir	-	0.01	6	43	drizzle
Exmouth	-	-	5	41	dull
Falmouth	-	-	7	45	cloudy
Folkestone	-	-	4	39	fog
Glasgow	-	-	10	50	drizzle
Guernsey	-	-	7	45	cloudy
Hastings	-	-	3	37	fog
Hunstanton	-	-	4	39	dull
Jersey	-	-	4	39	cloudy
Kinloss	0.7	-	12	54	cloudy
Leeds	0.9	-	9	48	cloudy
Lerwick	-	0.41	7	45	rain
Littlehampton	-	-	3	37	fog
Liverpool	0.1	-	7	45	cloudy
London	-	-	4	39	fog
Lowestoft	-	-	4	39	fog
Manchester	0.6	-	8	46	cloudy
Minehead	-	-	4	39	dull
Morecambe	-	-	7	45	dull
Newcastle	3.4	-	11	52	sunny
Newquay	-	-	7	45	cloudy
Nottingham	1.9	-	5	41	fog
Penzance	-	-	8	46	cloudy
Plymouth	1.6	-	7	45	cloudy
Poole	-	-	7	45	dull
Prestwick	-	-	9	48	cloudy
Saunton Snd	1.7	-	7	45	cloudy
Scarborough	5.3	-	9	48	bright
Scilly Isles	-	-	8	46	cloudy
Shanklin	-	-	3	37	fog
Southsea	-	-	3	37	fog
Stornoway	-	0.02	10	50	drizzle
Swanage	-	-	4	39	cloudy
Teignmouth	-	-	5	41	cloudy
Tenby	-	-	5	41	cloudy
Tiree	-	-	10	50	cloudy
Torquay	-	-	7	45	cloudy
Weymouth	-	-	3	37	fog
Wick	0.2	0.01	11	52	rain
Worthing	-	-	2	36	dull

TOURIST RATES

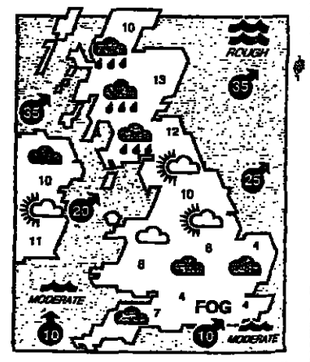
	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.22	2.02
Austria Sch	17.90	16.40
Belgium Fr	52.45	48.05
Canada $	1.845	1.725
Denmark Kr	9.82	9.02
Finland Mrk	8.91	8.17
France Fr	8.59	7.89
Germany Dm	2.535	2.335
Greece Dr	342.00	317.00
Hong Kong $	11.83	10.83
Ireland Pt	1.03	0.95
Italy Lira	3390.00	2165.00
Japan Yen	197.50	178.50
Netherlands Gld	2.86	2.63
Norway Kr	10.72	9.92
Portugal Esc	228.00	210.00
South Africa Rd	5.40	4.70
Spain Pta	178.00	163.00
Sweden Kr	11.40	10.60
Switzerland Fr	2.34	2.16
Turkey Lira	13700.0	12700.0
USA $	1.535	1.41

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

AM



PM



LIGHTING-UP TIMES

London 4.58 pm to 7.31 am
Bristol 5.07 pm to 7.40 am
Edinburgh 4.56 pm to 7.58 am
Manchester 5.00 pm to 7.45 am
Penzance 5.23 pm to 7.49 am

Sun rises: 7.33 am
Sun sets: 4.59 pm
Moon rises: 3.22 pm
Moon sets: 6.14 am
Full moon tomorrow

YESTERDAY

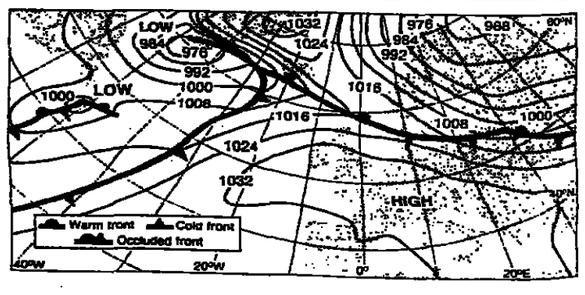
Temperatures at midday yesterday: c, cloud; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun.

	C	F			C	F	
Belfast	7	45	c	Guernsey	5	41	c
B'mngham	2	36	c	Inverness	11	52	r
Blackpool	6	43	c	Jersey	3	37	c
Bristol	3	37	c	London	4	39	c
Cardiff	3	37	c	M'nchster	6	43	c
Edinburgh	10	50	c	Newcastle	10	50	f
Glasgow	9	48	d	R'nldsway	8	46	c

HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge			12.27	6.8	Liverpool	9.45	8.8	10.13	9.0
Aberdeen	11.53	4.1			Lowestoft	7.56	2.2	8.07	3.3
Avonmouth	5.32	12.1	6.07	12.5	Margate	10.35	4.4	10.59	4.6
Belfast	9.31	3.3	10.04	3.2	Milford Haven	4.40	6.3	5.09	6.5
Cardiff	5.17	11.3	5.52	11.5	Newquay	3.33	6.4	4.01	6.5
Devonport	4.17	5.0	4.51	5.0	Oban	4.28	3.6	5.03	3.7
Dover	9.25	6.0	9.59	6.2	Penzance	3.19	5.1	3.51	5.1
Falmouth	3.47	4.8	4.21	4.8	Portland	5.11	1.8	5.49	1.9
Glasgow	11.28	4.6			Portsmouth	9.47	4.5	10.25	4.6
Harwich	10.21	3.6	10.47	3.8	Shoreham	9.38	5.8	10.12	6.1
Hollyhead	8.56	5.2	9.21	5.3	Southampton	9.26	4.2	10.02	4.3
Hull	4.48	6.7	5.08	6.9	Swansea	4.48	3.7	5.15	8.9
Ilfracombe	4.26	8.4	4.55	8.6	Tees	2.09	4.8	2.29	5.1
King's Lynn	5.00	5.8	5.15	6.1	W'ton-on-Nze	10.06	3.9	10.40	3.9
Leith	12.49	5.0	1.09	5.2					

NOON TODAY



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هكذا من الأصل

صكذا من الاصل



INFOTECH 28-29

The phone that breaks language barriers

THE UNIVERSITY OF JORDAN SERIALS DIVISION



ARTS 25-27

Vienna's fortieth celebrated with Rossini



SPORT 34

Martin Donnelly back in a Formula One car

TELEVISION AND RADIO Page 35

THE TIMES

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 5 1993

BUSINESS TODAY

GROWING

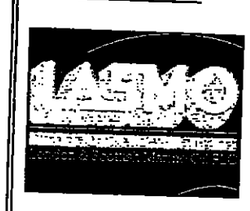
OECD OCDE

The OECD forecasts a return to growth in Britain this year but gave warning of the dangers of inflation
Page 21

GLITTERING

Singer & Friedlander may be a small merchant bank but it attracts glittering names
Page 23

SEEKING



Lasmo is raising £126.5 million through the sale of two packages of North Sea assets to reduce its high debts
Page 20

DREAMING

Ernest Saunders dreamt of running a global empire with offices in New York and London, a court heard
Page 23

THE POUND

US $ ..... 1.4430 (+0.0057)
German mark..2.3921 (+0.0318)
Exchange index ..... 77.5 (+0.6)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT-SE 100 ..... 2865.9 (-7.9)
Dow Jones .3391.62 (+17.83)*
Nikkei Avg ..... 17190.63 (-31.40)

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base..... 6%
3-month interbank 6⅛-6⅜
US Federal Funds 3⅛%*
3-month Treas Bills 2.90-2.89%*
Long Bond... ..... 7.19%*

CURRENCIES

New York:	London:
£:$ 1.4455*	£:$ 1.4445
$:DM .1.6530*	£:DM ...2.3856
$:SWfr.1.5290*	£:SWfr ..2.2087
$:Fr ...5.5855*	£:Fr 8.0895
$:Yen .124.55*	£:Yen ...180.09
£:SDR ..1.0522	£:ECU ..1.2244

London Forex market close

GOLD

London Fixing ($):
AM 328.15 ..... PM 328.00
Close 328.00-328.50
New York:
Comex 328.45-328.95*

RETAIL PRICES

RPI.....139.2 December (2.5%)
* Denotes midday trading price



Swooping in: Sir Geoffrey Mulcahy, the chairman of Kingfisher, which confirmed that talks were in progress with Darty, a French group

Leyland DAF fights alone for survival

BY ROSS TIEMAN AND MARTIN WALLER

■ Receivers will decide in meetings at the weekend whether production can continue next week at Leyland DAF, the British subsidiary of the Anglo-Dutch truckmaker

TODAY'S pay packet could be the last Leyland DAF pays its 5,500 workers as the administrative receivers prepare for a decision at the weekend on whether production at the troubled British truckmaker continues on Monday.

The odds appear to be lengthening against the company's survival. Renault, the French vehicle manufacturer, is already talking to a potential new partner for the joint venture that would have produced a new generation of vans from Leyland DAF's Birmingham plant.

If talks with Volkswagen are successful, production of the van, which has reached the prototype stage, may take place only at Batilly in northern France, triggering the loss of 2,000 British jobs.

The administrative receivers to Leyland DAF, the British arm of the Dutch DAF operation that sought protection from its creditors this week, say they have sufficient funds to get the company through to the weekend. British banks have indicated their willingness to provide sufficient working capital to meet day-to-day requirements, including meeting this week's wage bills.

But a final decision will be taken this weekend by John Talbot and Murdoch McKillop, of Arthur Andersen, joint administrative receivers to the British company, after consultations with their Dutch counterparts and the consortium of banks owed 3 billion guilders, or £1.1 billion, by the group as a whole.

A meeting at DAF's headquarters in Eindhoven, The Netherlands, yesterday, secured agreement for the provision of a 60 million guilders temporary rescue package from the banks. But the three British banks, National Westminster, Barclays and Lloyds, were not even invited to the meeting. Mr Talbot was asked to attend but was unable to do so.

A spokesman for DAF in Eindhoven said no deal had yet been set up for its British operations. He said it was not clear for how long the loan would help DAF on the Continent. This, and the non-attendance of the British banks, confirms suspicions that the two sides of DAF, the British and continental operations, have effectively been split and will be allowed to go their separate ways. The Dutch and Belgian governments, which have been heavily involved in the rescue package, have made it clear that any fresh injection of funds will not be used to save British jobs.

Trade union leaders representing British workers have requested an urgent meeting with Michael Heseltine, the trade secretary. They will plead for him to collaborate with the Dutch and Belgian governments to ensure that British operations are saved.

John Allen, chief negotiator for the AEEU engineering union, said: "The British government put a significant amount of investment into the company in 1987 for the development of the trans-European DAF company. Mr Heseltine cannot ignore that."

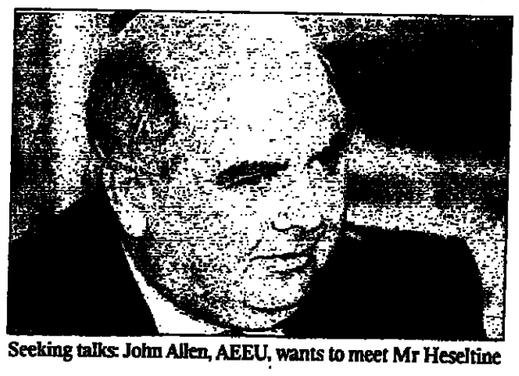
The unions are also seeking an urgent meeting with Dutch administrators and union leaders.

Managers at both the Birmingham van plant and the truck plant in Leyland, alarmed by the apparent worsening of the outlook for the UK arm, are already drawing up contingency plans for separate management buyouts.

Ian McKinnon, 46, a former director of Leyland Vehicles who headed the buyout of Leyland Bus in 1987 and has close links with Lancashire Enterprise, the venture capital group, is understood to be involved in talks over a possible buyout by the management.

Paccar, the American truckmaker that looked at Leyland trucks before it was bought by DAF in 1987, is also believed to be keeping an eye on the situation.

ERF, Britain's only quoted heavy truckmaker, said it would be pleased to co-operate with an independent producer of light- and medium-weight vehicles and could triple output to make up the shortfall in heavy trucks hitherto supplied from DAF's Dutch plant.



Seeking talks: John Allen, AEEU, wants to meet Mr Heseltine

Tempus, page 23

Bundesbank surrenders to pressure for rate cuts

FROM COLIN NARBROUGH IN FRANKFURT AND JANET BUSH

THE Bundesbank finally responded to intense political pressure and the desperate plight of the exchange-rate mechanism yesterday by cutting two of its key interest rates ahead of its own domestic policy timetable for easing monetary policy.

After the regular meeting of its policy-making council, the German central bank announced a half-point cut in the Lombard rate to 9 per cent, effective from today, and a 0.25 per cent cut in the key discount rate to 8 per cent.

There was also a sharp cut in the minimum reserve requirements for German banks, but the Bundesbank stressed that this was aimed at helping domestic banks become more competitive amid fierce European competition.

The Bundesbank chose not to lower its repurchase rate, which tends to have a direct effect on short-term money market interest rates. The cautious discount rate cut was also a sign that the central bank remains conservative about easing monetary policy on domestic grounds.

Thomas Mayer, at Goldman Sachs in Frankfurt, said that yesterday's move was a half measure and a further 0.25 per cent cut in the discount rate would come when the Bundesbank was ready on domestic grounds.

That move is being held back by the continued absence of a wage deal with Germany's 2.3 million public sector workers, and delays in the agreement of a solidarity pact aimed at securing cuts in Germany's budget deficit. Mr Mayer believes positive signs from the wage talks, an expected fall in M3 money supply and the eventual signing of a pact will allow another 0.25 per cent discount rate cut within weeks and another half-point cut by mid-year.

The rate cuts were made ahead of the Bundesbank's internal timetable for easing monetary policy and were forced on the Bundesbank by extreme pressures in the ERM. Helmut Schlesinger, the Bundesbank president, said the package of cuts was in response to "domestic and worldwide" economic conditions. He said the rate cuts "should contribute towards reducing tension in the currency markets".

Richard Reid, chief economist at UBS in Frankfurt, said the package provided something for the ERM, something for the German banks, and kept something in reserve for the domestic German market.

Gerhard Grebe, chief economist at Bank Julius Baer, said the moves were intended to prevent the currency markets overwhelming the Danish kroner, on its ERM floor for most of the week.

The reaction on currency markets contained a measure of relief for embattled ERM currencies, tempered with disappointment that the cuts were not more aggressive. The move was followed by cuts in the Austrian discount rate and lower interest rates in Belgium and the Netherlands. Erik Hoffmeyer, Denmark's central bank governor, said the move would be enough to maintain the kroner's current parities.

The Danish kroner moved comfortably above its floor of 3.9016 to the mark to 3.8400, while the French franc firmed to 3.3827 to the mark from 3.3895. Sterling firmed to end at DM2.3921, three pfennigs up on Wednesday's close. On a trade-weighted basis, it rallied to close at 77.5, compared with Wednesday's record closing low of 76.9.

Help for pound, page 1
Tempus, 23

Kingfisher in talks over £1bn French deal

BY OUR DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

KINGFISHER, the Woolworth retail combine, is in talks to acquire a leading French electrical goods chain for more than £1 billion.

The news leaked out as six-month negotiations with Darty neared their end, prompting a sharp fall in the Kingfisher share price, which has been under pressure for some days as the market scented a rights issue to fund an overseas purchase.

The shares closed 20p lower at 538p, after falling to 522p at one stage. A final deal could still be two weeks away, and could involve some form of share issue to the existing management of the French company to lock them in place.

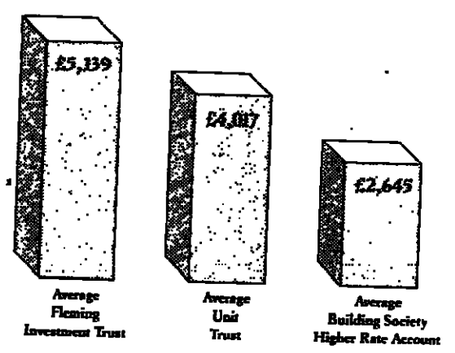
Darty has about 12 per cent of the French electrical retail market, selling from 130 stores, against a share of 8 per cent in Britain controlled by Comet, the electrical goods chain owned by Kingfisher. The French stores are on average about twice the size of the average branch of Comet, and total sales are in the £1 billion a year area. Latest annual profits were Fr1.066 billion, or about £132 million.

The news came in a French financial newspaper and prompted a formal statement from Kingfisher, whose chairman and chief executive is Sir Geoffrey Mulcahy, that the talks were in progress, as well as the suspension of the limited number of Darty shares, about 4.7 per cent of the company, that are quoted on the Paris bourse.

Employees control 56 per cent of Darty through stakes

Continued on page 21, col 1

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Rewards and dangers of keeping one's tail up



ANTHONY HARRIS

Squirrels know all about it. They are just arboreal rats, and not large as rats go: but as they prove in my garden every day, they can keep normally aggressive cats at a respectful distance. They just puff out their tails. Businesses do, too.

The Bundesbank has been working the tail trick for decades. It is more than just another central bank, but not that much more, yet it passes as the world's central monetary authority. Yesterday it stilled the tides of speculation by merely flexing its jaw muscles. Impressive. But for Leyland, reality ruined its image. The last sell-out had turned it into a squirrel run by a mole.

Buba has had it easy, as Canute might have done had he reigned, say, in Malta. Visitors from tidal countries would have been most impressed with his powers. The German work ethic, with the national neurosis about inflation, have made central banking in Frankfurt a sinecure most of the time. There have been some policy difficulties, mainly in the exchange markets; Buba has responded with gadgetry, mainly, and explained away any awkward-looking numbers it couldn't conceal. However, a major difference with its own Federal government has not been so easy to manage.

Buba's true motivation has been to punish Chancellor Kohl for ignoring its advice; but it has disguised this by borrowing a new monetary target — M3, a measure well known for its perverse behaviour (it gets bigger when squeezed, a trait squirrels might find useful). As a result, actions designed to make government policy unworkable are disguised as pure monetary discipline. This is an old Bank of England trick. But now the Bundesbank is attempting something more difficult: to ease exchange market tension without taking any real pressure off the government. Watch these pages for progress reports. All this may look like underhand conduct from the world model for purity, but it is nothing new.

Five years ago many of the world's most important central bankers met in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, for a few days of mutual support and mountain walking. Most spent their time preaching Puritanism at each other with the zeal of new converts; but the Bundesbank representative was more worldly. "We are delighted to see this spread of right thinking," he said, "but our experience suggests that the task requires subtlety as well as determination. Every central bank needs a transparent and consistent policy as a focus for market expectations. It also needs an eloquent public spokeman who can explain why, at any given time, that policy is not being followed."

Long live apparent consistency.

Leyland's deceptive tactics were also designed to impress the government and the markets and were the company's one consistent triumph. A truck is an imposing object, and Leyland made some big ones; but this alone would hardly have convinced the world the company itself was big. That was the result of its two most impressive productivity feats, but one which owed more to Mr Toad that to any squirrel: the world's largest output of press releases, and probably an equal record in take-overs. Every time a bus was delivered to Bootle, an announcement was in the post. A fleet order from abroad (say a dozen buses for Havana), was a national event, with a minister on hand for free champagne. Small product changes were news; small acquisitions (and most of them were very small) were big news. Only one of these displays misfired: a release announcing a new record UK market share of 15 per cent. Leyland shares fell; the City thought it was at least twice as big.

The group's tragedy was that it never had enough money. It remained a lot of small companies, and one sales genius called Donald Stokes. In an unbuttoned moment, he explained: "Find the right price, and close. A bus is only a loss leader for the spares department." The secret couldn't be applied to the cars. Protracted end of British Leyland. And now a posthumous triumph for Leyland PR: the possible (but improbable) closure of a smallish branch enterprise is a national disaster.

Further asset sales reduce Lasmo debt

By George Sivell, City Editor

LASMO, the independent energy group, announced a further £126.5 million of disposals yesterday. The group, from which Chris Greentree resigned as chief executive last week, is struggling with heavy debts since the takeover of Ultramar a year ago. The shares rose 7p to 168p yesterday.

Lasmo said the disposals would reduce the proportion of debts to shareholders' funds by 14 per cent from its present level of about 80 per cent. Analysts said the disposals had been made at a decent price, given the depressed oil market. Lasmo has raised about $1.7 billion from sales since the Ultramar bid.

Analysts also believe that Lasmo is more likely to cut its final dividend now and say that £36 million could be saved by repeating the interim 2.3p a share payout rather than maintain the 6.2p final.

Yesterday, Lasmo sold North Sea assets worth £105.8 million to Deminex UK, a German company in which BASF is a significant shareholder. The assets include interests in 17 North Sea blocks, including forthcoming production, near-term developments and exploration acreage. The assets also include Lasmo interests in the Bruce, Keith and M fields and a 25 per cent interest in block 16/12a, which contains the so-called "tree" fields. The money from Deminex will be received in two halves; £52.9 million will be paid in cash on completion of the deal, with the rest paid in the form of a loan note redeemable on January 1, 1994, which will have a maturity value of £52.9 million.

Lasmo also revealed it has sold its interests in the Balmoral and Maureen fields to Pentex Oil for £20.7 million. Both transactions are subject to trade department approval and the pre-emptive rights of certain partners.

Joe Darby, Lasmo's new chief executive, said: "These disposals are part of our continuing strategy to reduce debt and gearing and to divest ourselves of peripheral assets when attractive prices can be obtained.

"Despite difficult market conditions we have been able to dispose of assets at varying stages of development at prices which compare favourably with those achieved for recent industry sales. We are encouraged by our progress and shareholders can expect to see this process continue."

Some analysts doubt if Lasmo can sell off many more assets without eating further into future earnings and reserves. Those at Swiss Bank Corporation say: "If Lasmo goes too much further with portfolio restructuring and non-core asset disposals, it will make a substantial dent in its reserve base and production profile. Expenditure cutbacks will play a vital role in debt reduction."

Tempus, page 23



Optimistic: Richard Carr, chairman, seated, with Duncan Moss, finance director

Allied Leisure calls for £13m

By Philip Pangalos

ALLIED Leisure, the ten-pin bowling to nightclubs group, accompanied lower first-half profits with a request to shareholders for £12.6 million of fresh funds to develop new sites.

Allied plans to invest £10 million in a bowling centre and a nightclub in a new leisure complex at Crystal Palace, south London. Building work on the site, which will also include an hotel, a multi-screen cinema, shops and restaurants, will start in April. The 195,000 sq ft development will be worth about £50 million. Allied aims to pay for its part of the two-year development with a seven-for-ten rights issue, at 48p a share, to raise about £12.6 million. The issue has been underwritten by Williams de Broë, which replaces Smith New Court as Allied's broker.

The interim dividend is cut to 1p, against 1.5p last time, as the company reported a 24.8 per cent fall in pre-tax profits to £1.24 million in the 25 weeks to January 3. Turnover grew 8 per cent to £11.5 million, helped by the opening of two bowling centres, bringing the total to 15. Earnings slip to 2.92p a share, down from 3.69p.

However, Richard Carr, chairman and chief executive, is more optimistic about future prospects. "I believe that we have now seen the bottom of the recession in our sector of the leisure industry. Over the last few months, business has proved to be more predictable and I am quietly confident for the full year," he said.

He added that proceeds from the rights issue will enable Allied to cut debts and invest in new growth areas. Mr Carr also intends to spit the roles of chairman and chief executive and give up the post of chairman. A successor is being sought.

Pay deals decline to lowest for 12 years

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

PAY settlements in manufacturing industry are running at their lowest level for 12 years, according to the latest survey of wage deals published yesterday by the Confederation of British Industry.

Figures show that private sector pay settlements have fallen sharply since the devaluation of sterling. First estimates for deals in December show that over the three months to the end of last year, wage settlements in manufacturing industry were provisionally running at 2.8 per cent — below the level of retail price inflation at the time. This compares with 3.9 per cent for the three months to the end of September, and marks one of the sharpest recent falls recorded by the CBI. Provisional figure for the fourth quarter of 1992 was at a record low since the CBI began collecting settlement data in 1980.

In the service sector, pay settlements for the same period were provisionally recorded at an average of 3.2 per cent, compared with 4.3 per cent in the third quarter.

Looking at pay expectations across the private sector, the confederation said that feedback from its constituent regions suggested that two-thirds of employers expect their next pay settlement to be lower than their last, and the same proportion of employees believe their next rise will only be the same, or lower, than their last increase.

The CBI said that since last August, a third of all employers have introduced pay freezes.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Motor World gears up for market debut

MOTOR World Group, the car parts and accessories retailer and manufacturer, is attempting to take advantage of the buoyant stock market by gearing up for a flotation next Thursday. The £12.5 million placing of 5.97 million ordinary shares through Beeson Gregory, at 210p a share, represents 45.3 per cent of the issued capital. At the placing price, the group would be capitalised at £27.7 million.

Motor World runs a network of 180 low-cost outlets stretching from the North of England to the Midlands and Wales, operating away from high streets. About £3.2 million will be used to redeem existing preference shares and about £9 million will repay debt. Motor World made a pre-tax profit of £2.29 million in the year to November 1, 1992, on turnover of £34.2 million. Based on the pro forma earnings, the p/e multiple at the placing price is 13.1. Gearing will be cut from 360 per cent to about 12 per cent. Tempus, page 23.

Kwik-Save to expand

KWIK-SAVE, the cut-price supermarket group, has announced a ground-breaking move into Scotland, and expansion in London and the South East. Graeme Seabrook, chief executive, said the group, which has 80 sites in the South East, would like to open a further 100 outlets in the region. The move will create 2,500 jobs eventually. Mr Seabrook said Kwik-Save would also like to open 100 sites in Scotland as soon as possible.

Wheway chief goes

JOHN McGowan has stepped down as chief executive of Wheway, the struggling environmental engineering group, after a "mutual amicable agreement". Hugh Ashton, the chairman, said the constitution of the board was under review, and it had been decided that a change of management would be "in the best interests" of Wheway. He said difficult trading conditions persisted in the first three months of the current financial year.

Menvier buys in France

MENVIER-SWAIN Group, the emergency lighting and fire alarm company, is to acquire Nugelec, a French fire alarm group, for £10.55 million in cash and shares, to be funded via a £9 million rights issue. Shareholders are being offered one new share for every eight held, at 520p against an existing price of 605p. Menvier made £3.2 million (£2.77 million) pre-tax profit in the six months to end-October, with earnings of 14.9p (13.3p) a share. The interim dividend is 3.3p (2.7p).

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yld %
ABBEY UNIT TRUST MANAGERS 80 Holdenhurst Rd, Bournemouth BH8 8AL. 0345 717373				
Mastertrust	108.40	115.90	+0.10	1.62
International	79.64	84.72	-0.27	1.20
Dividend Gth	55.79	59.35†	+0.58	5.05
Global Gth Sec	59.46	63.25	-0.08	3.15
Ethical Growth	63.66	67.72	+0.33	2.85
High Inc Equity	148.30	157.70†	+1.60	5.39
Worldwide Bond	263.20	279.00†	-2.60	4.48
Gilts Fixed Int	128.80	136.50†	...	6.96
ABTRUST MANAGEMENT LTD 10 Queens Terrace, Aberdeen AB9 1QJ. 0224 633070. Dealing: 0800 833580. 30 Finsbury Circus, London EC2M 7QQ. 071 374 6801				
Amer Inc Gth	44.28	46.76	+0.22	1.81
European	76.94	81.52†	+0.01	...
European Inc	76.87	81.50	-0.52	1.64
Exempt	896.00	924.30†	+5.20	3.31
Extra Inc	41.91	45.37	+0.30	5.55
F East Emerg Ec	78.08	84.19	-0.25	0.76
ALLIED DUNBAR UNIT TRUSTS Allied Dunbar Centre, Swindon, SN1 1EL. 0793 514514. Dealing: 0793 610366				
High Inc	374.50	400.30	-0.30	4.33
Equity Inc	206.50	220.70†	-0.40	4.16
High Yield	230.10	245.90	-0.70	4.23
Balanced	627.40	670.60	+1.00	2.81
American Inc	48.18	51.50†	+0.19	3.32
Wld Asset Val	37.17	39.73	+0.10	1.94
Japan	139.00	147.90†	-1.30	0.01
Secs of Am	437.70	465.90	+2.40	0.35
AXA EQUITY & LAW St George's Hse, Corporation St, Coventry CV1 1QD. 0203 553231				
UK Growth Acc	309.10	328.90	+3.80	2.99
-do- Inc	221.50	235.70	+2.70	2.99
Higher Inc Acc	547.60	582.60	+5.90	4.18
-do- Inc	337.80	359.40	+3.70	4.18
Gilt/Fxd Int Acc	172.10	181.70	+0.20	6.61
-do- Inc	92.72	97.93	+0.13	6.61
Nth America	281.50	299.50	+1.30	...
Far East	249.40	265.40	-0.70	0.31
Europe	209.30	222.70	-0.70	1.27
General Inc	418.00	444.70	+4.60	2.66
-do- Acc	455.20	484.30	+4.90	2.66
Brit Excell	62.98	67.00	+0.82	3.06
Brit Fndmtls Inc	64.30	68.41	+0.62	5.20
Brit Fndmtls Acc	81.92	87.15	+0.78	5.20
Global Opps	68.48	72.86	+0.14	...
BARCLAYS UNICORN LTD Gredley Hse, 1-11 Broadway, London E15. 081 534 5544				
Capital	106.10	113.50†	+1.10	3.29
Euro Gth Inc	109.90	116.40	-0.30	1.25
Extra Inc	103.00	110.20	+1.10	5.45
General	236.50	252.90	+2.80	3.42
Gilt Fxd Inc	57.47	59.46	+0.08	8.74
Income	462.00	494.10†	+5.00	4.91
BARING FUND MANAGERS PO Box 156, Beckenham, Kent BR3 4XQ. 081 658 9002				
American Gth	98.68	104.70	+0.20	0.10
Amer Smllr Cos	129.40	138.30	+0.90	...
Australia	...	...	...	...
Convertibles	51.07	54.61†	+0.28	7.40
Eastern	173.60	186.80	+0.80	1.70
Equity Income	76.80	81.70	+0.82	6.60
European Gth	217.30	231.10	-1.00	1.60
Euro Smllr Cos	146.50	156.50	-0.60	2.00
Exempt	80.61	82.75†	+1.53	3.80
German Growth	51.71	55.21	+0.08	0.80
Global Growth	107.60	114.90	-0.10	..
Japan Growth	156.60	167.80†	-1.50	...
Japan Sunrise	130.60	139.40	-0.80	...
Portfolio	115.40	123.40	+0.80	3.40
-do- Acc	203.90	218.20	+1.50	3.40
UK Growth	74.36	79.10	+0.20	3.20
UK Smaller Cos	74.09	79.24	+0.46	2.00
Select Managers	62.06	66.49	+0.50	2.10
BRITANNIA LIFE UNIT MANAGERS LTD 190 West George St, Glasgow G2 2PA. 041 332 3132				
Asian Gth Acc	102.15	109.25	-1.24	2.39
-do- Inc	93.56	100.06	-1.14	2.39
Global Bond	29.43	31.23	-0.10	5.78
High Yield Acc	50.90	54.43	+0.55	4.52
-do- Inc	37.31	39.90†	+0.40	4.52
Smllr Cos Acc	83.06	88.84	+0.78	1.81
-do- Inc	76.82	82.16	+0.72	1.81
Amer Gth Acc	60.18	64.37	-1.07	0.29
-do- Inc	59.06	63.17†	-1.05	0.29
Euro Gth Acc	94.07	100.61	-0.09	1.78
-do- Inc	93.20	99.68	-0.09	1.78
Mngd P folio	34.10	36.48	+0.40	1.54
Pacific Growth	86.19	92.18	+0.52	1.17
Intl Spec Opps	85.17	91.10	+1.59	1.09
BROWN SHIPLEY 9/17 Perrymount Rd, Haywards Heath. 0444 458144				
Financial	112.20	119.50	+1.60	3.72
Smaller Cos Acc	255.50	272.10	+1.70	..
Smaller Cos Inc	149.60	159.40	+1.00	1.44
High Inc	72.11	77.15	+0.79	7.15
Income	123.10	131.80	+1.40	4.40
Mngd P folio Inc	90.55	96.43†	+0.77	2.16
-do- Acc	169.50	180.50	+1.40	...
North American	113.80	121.20†	+0.40	0.18
Orient	97.10	104.50	-0.30	...
Recovery	36.35	39.07	+0.41	3.02
German	40.01	42.90	+0.06	0.09
Intl Growth	33.31	35.48	+0.01	0.22
European Inc	22.11	23.79	-0.08	0.47
Conv General	19.30	20.65	+0.15	8.08
BUCKMASTER MANAGEMENT Beaufort House, 15 St Botolph Street, London EC3A 7JJ. 071 247 4542. Dealing: 071 247 7474				
Fellowship Tst	63.61	67.68	+0.79	1.18
-do- Acc	70.94	75.47	+0.89	1.18
Income Fund 5	207.90	221.20	+1.80	4.03
-do- Acc	472.60	502.80	+4.00	4.03
Inv Portfolio	66.18	68.59†	+0.39	2.29
-do- Acc	74.73	77.45†	+0.67	2.29
Smaller Cos	113.60	120.90†	+1.00	2.19
-do- Acc	136.50	145.30†	+1.20	2.19
High Inc P folio	58.19	60.31	+0.30	4.79
BURRAGE UNIT TRUST MANAGEMENT LTD 117 Fenchurch St, London EC3M 5AL. 071 488 7216				
Stk Gilt Fxd Int	69.25	70.18	+0.13	5.93
CIS UNIT MANAGERS LTD PO Box 105, Manchester M60 0AH. 061 837 5060				
Environ	132.80	141.30	+0.50	1.72
UK Growth	142.20	151.30†	+1.60	2.47
UK Income	121.80	129.60	+1.20	4.60
CANNON FUND MANAGERS 1 Olympic Way, Wembley, Middx HA9 0NB. 081 902 8876				
SE Asia	78.35	83.80	-0.39	1.11
Growth	44.01	47.07†	+0.42	3.07
Income	51.92	55.53†	+0.60	4.30
Far East	40.75	43.56	-0.02	0.37
North American	89.86	96.11	-0.25	0.01
Global	83.77	89.53	+0.30	0.63
European	64.14	68.60	-0.28	1.37
Japan	85.23	91.15	-0.38	0.01
Intl Currency Bd	58.83	62.32	-0.21	5.07
UK Cap Gwth	77.30	82.67	-1.00	2.32
CAPEL-CURE MYERS UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD 35 Fountain Street, Manchester M2 2AF. Enquiries: 061 236 5685. Dealing: 061 236 5362				
Capability Trusts				
American Gen	136.10	144.70	+0.60	0.06
-do- Acc	144.70	153.90	+0.70	0.06
European	65.09	68.89	-0.40	1.10
-do- Acc	67.47	71.40	-0.42	1.10
Far East Gen	48.14	51.22	-0.16	...
-do- Acc	48.14	51.22	-0.16	...
Glenfriars	239.90	255.30	-0.90	1.33
-do- Acc	269.50	286.80	-0.90	1.33
Growth	372.40	398.30	+3.50	2.56
-do- Acc	633.20	677.30	+6.10	2.56
Income Growth	363.80	387.10†	+3.80	4.09
-do- Acc	483.80	514.70	+5.10	4.09
Master Portfolio	9313.0	9625.0†	+32.00	2.85
-do- Acc	10722.0	11087.0	+37.00	2.85
Special Sits	84.72	90.13†	+0.73	2.53
-do- Acc	99.16	105.49	+0.86	2.53
Exempt Fund				
High Yield	1170.0	1207.0	+10.00	4.63
-do- Acc	1356.0	1398.0	+12.00	4.63
CAPEL (JAMES) UNIT TRUST MANAGEMENT LTD 7 Devonshire Square, London EC2M 4HU. 071 955 5050. Dealing: 071 955 5055				
American Index	199.00	211.80†	+2.40	1.72
Capital	525.30	560.50	+8.80	2.51
Eurotrack 100	126.60	134.60†	+0.50	1.78
Euro Gth	78.16	83.19†	+0.23	1.89
Far East Growth	79.08	84.39†	-0.26	0.50
Global Bond	23.07	24.31†	-0.03	6.53
Hong Kong	68.22	72.80	-0.96	0.69
Income	498.80	532.30	+7.50	4.73
Intl Growth	71.55	76.36	+0.16	1.07
Japan Growth	204.20	217.90	-0.30	...
Japan Smllr Cos	25.77	27.50†	-0.28	...
Japan Index	60.32	64.37†	-0.43	0.31
Nth American	433.70	462.80	+3.90	0.97
S pore Mly Gth	51.12	54.55	+1.08	...
The Footsie Fd	107.50	113.50	+2.00	2.51
Tiger Index	135.80	144.90	+0.50	0.98
Trade Index	99.98	106.70	+1.30	3.01
UK Index	121.60	129.70†	+2.30	3.32
CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MANAGEMENT LTD 3 Copthall Avenue, London EC2R 7BH. 071 606 0708				
American P folio	85.70	91.49	+0.60	1.00
European P folio	69.83	74.16	-0.24	1.38
Japanese P folio	48.48	51.48	-0.71	...
Pacific P folio	87.07	93.63	-0.39	2.43
Cazenove P folio	67.71	72.42†	+0.45	3.00
UK Income Gth	61.12	65.49	-0.22	5.00
CENTRAL BOARD OF FINANCE OF CHURCH OF ENGLAND 2 Fore Street, London EC2Y 5AQ. 071 588 1815				
Investment Fd	582.50	586.60	...	5.08
Fixed Int	151.95	152.70	...	9.50
Deposit	6.60	...	...	...
CHARITIES OFFICIAL INVESTMENT FUND 2 Fore Street, London EC2Y 5AQ. 071 588 1815				
Income	573.11	578.96	...	5.16
-do- Acc	2209.5	2215.6	...	...
Deposit	6.40	...	...	...
Fxd Int Inc	124.00	124.28	...	9.33
-do- Acc	159.85	160.17	...	...
CITY FINANCIAL UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD 1 White Hart Yard, London Bridge, SE1. 071 407 5966				
Cty Fin Assets	62.06	65.33	+5.27	2.48
Beckman Intl	79.58	84.01	+3.63	3.37
Friars Hse Inc	174.05	186.23†	...	6.62
Friars Hse Cap	241.47	258.37	...	2.99
COMMERCIAL UNION TRUST MANAGERS Exchange Court, 3 Bedford Park, Croydon CR0 2AQ. Enquiries: 081 681 2222. Dealing: 081 686 9818				
American Gth	111.98	119.13	+0.35	...
European Gth	90.27	96.03	-0.28	1.41
Far East Gth	91.59	97.44	-0.39	0.38
Japan Gth Acc	32.74	34.83	-0.27	...
Managed	59.88	63.70	+0.35	3.03
-do- Acc	72.32	76.94	+0.44	3.03
Mthly Inc Plus	46.45	49.41	+0.82	8.86
Smaller Cos	31.29	33.29†	+0.21	2.21
-do- Acc	35.22	37.47	+0.23	2.21
UK General	67.53	71.84	+0.90	2.76
-do- Acc	80.96	86.13	+1.09	2.76
Wwide Bd	64.01	68.10	-0.13	5.66
-do- Acc	80.22	85.34	-0.15	5.66
Wwide Sp Sits	52.57	56.22†	-0.03	0.30
-do- Acc	54.65	58.45	-0.03	0.30
Quilter General	121.88	129.66	+0.95	2.50
-do- Acc	134.16	142.72	+1.05	2.50
Quilter Income	90.83	96.63†	+1.24	4.00
-do- Acc	111.95	119.10	+1.54	4.00
Quilter Intl	122.02	129.81	+0.06	0.47
-do- Acc	123.71	131.61	+0.07	0.47
Quilter UK Spec	69.21	73.63	+1.11	2.50
-do- Acc	91.56	97.40	+1.47	2.50
CU Prestige Fund Management				
Fin Property	98.81	105.12	+1.23	1.83
Fixed Conv	39.54	42.06†	+0.20	8.31
-do- Acc	103.15	109.73	+0.52	8.31
Equity Inc	138.73	147.59†	+1.56	4.14
-do- Acc	446.08	474.55	+5.02	4.14
High Yield	114.85	122.18	+1.14	5.22
-do- Acc	429.85	457.29	+4.26	5.22
Preference	45.81	48.73†	+0.03	8.15
-do- Acc	231.74	246.53	+0.16	8.15
PPT Europe	143.37	152.52	-0.38	0.71
PPT Global Bnd	82.22	87.47	-0.15	4.46
PPT Gold Com	47.69	50.73	+0.20	...
PPT Thai	57.26	60.91	-0.60	...
PPT Hong Kong	90.03	95.78	+0.56	0.58
PPT Japan	90.35	96.12	-0.78	...
PPT N Amer	156.06	166.02	+0.48	...
PPT S'pore Mly	100.34	106.74	+0.13	..
PPT UK	114.36	121.66	+1.45	1.49
PPT Cash	90.87	90.87	+0.02	6.20
EAGLE STAR UNIT MANAGERS Bath Road, Cheltenham GL53 7LQ. 0242 577 555				
Oriental Op Acc	72.35	76.97	-0.20	1.03
Japanese Acc	46.93	49.93	-0.42	...
UK Balncd Inc	122.60	130.43	+1.80	2.57
-do- Acc	143.10	152.20	+2.00	2.57
UK Growth Acc	202.60	215.50	+2.30	2.34
UK High Inc	129.90	138.20	+1.50	6.57
-do- Acc	153.40	163.20	+1.90	6.57
N America Acc	119.30	126.90	...	0.31
European Acc	146.50	155.90	-0.40	0.45
UK Pref F/I Inc	59.66	63.34	+0.11	8.92
-do- Acc	96.32	102.20	+0.10	8.92
Intl Sp Sits Acc	45.61	48.52	-0.15	0.23
Environmntl Opp	70.55	75.05	+0.62	1.48
EDINBURGH UNIT TRUST MANAGERS Donaldson House, 97 Haymarket Terrace, Edinburgh EH12 5HD. 031 313 1000				
American	116.80	124.00	+1.90	...
UK Smllr Cos	176.90	188.00	+2.40	1.33
Eurofund	36.79	39.85†	-0.03	1.03
Mngd Exempt	161.20	168.00	+3.60	3.12
Growth Inc	211.90	225.10†	+2.80	4.00
High Dist	177.40	189.00	+1.80	5.92
International	313.20	332.80	+4.10	0.98
Intl Income	39.72	45.16	+0.64	3.06
Pacific	55.42	58.88	-0.70	0.51
Smllr Jap Cos	53.23	56.59	-0.04	..
Tokyo	160.60	170.80	-0.20	..
Japan Exempt	90.74	93.24	+7.55	0.54
Sm Jap Exempt	437.40	449.40	+27.40	0.12
ENDURANCE FUND MANAGEMENT 41 Harrington Gardens, London SW7 4JU. 071 373 7261				
Endurance	167.70	178.40	+7.10	1.06
EQUITABLE UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD Walton St, Aylesbury, Bucks, HP21 7QW. 0296 431480				
Pelican	103.44	108.88	+0.52	3.70
High Income	118.67	124.92	+0.45	5.06
Tst of Inv Tsts	139.55	146.89	+2.86	2.49
Special Sits	83.98	88.40	+0.48	3.38
North American	111.70	117.58	-0.31	1.11
Far Eastern	205.19	215.99	-0.14	1.56
Intl Growth	88.53	93.19	-0.26	1.58
European	61.83	65.08	+0.05	2.15
Smaller Cos	68.78	72.40	+0.73	2.40
FIDELITY INVESTMENT SERVICES LTD Oakhill House, 130 Tonbridge Rd, Tonbridge TN11 9DZ. 0800 414181				
America	226.50	240.20	+0.40	...
Cash Unit Tst	100.00	100.00	...	6.50
European Tst	105.70	112.40	...	...
FOREIGN & COLONIAL 8th Floor, Exchange Hse, Primrose St, London EC2A 2NY. 071 628 8000				
European	89.75	95.00	-0.03	0.68
Far Eastern	112.40	120.20	-0.40	...
Overs Income	86.61	92.76	-0.25	2.70
UK Growth	90.78	97.09†	+0.68	1.37
UK Income	101.00	108.00	+1.30	3.92
US Smaller Cos	233.30	249.50	+1.20	...
FRAMLINGTON UNIT MANAGEMENT 155 Bishopsgate, London EC2M 3FT. 071 374 4100				
Am Smllr Co	446.60	477.50	+2.10	..
-do- Acc	456.20	487.80	+2.10	...
Capital	279.80	297.60	+1.20	2.31
-do- Acc	386.20	410.80	+1.50	2.31
Cond Smllr Cos	43.97	47.42	-0.36	1.43
-do- Acc	45.50	49.06	-0.38	1.43
Convertible	106.90	113.70†	+0.60	6.28
-do- Acc	198.00	210.60†	+1.00	6.28
European	94.21	100.70	-0.40	0.83
-do- Acc	97.35	104.10	-0.40	0.83
Extra Income	279.40	297.20†	+2.80	4.55
-do- Acc	391.20	416.10†	+4.00	4.55
Financial	105.90	113.90	+0.60	0.71
-do- Acc	110.20	118.60	+0.60	0.71
Health Fund Inc	130.80	139.70	-1.10	...
-do- Acc	130.80	139.70	-1.10	...
Income Tst	173.50	184.50	+1.70	4.24
-do- Acc	241.80	257.20	+2.40	4.24
Intl Growth	307.40	329.10	+0.40	...
-do- Acc	341.30	365.40	+0.40	...
Japan Gen	134.00	143.30	-0.80	...
-do- Acc	135.30	144.70	-0.80	...
Mngd P folio Inc	89.02	93.70	+0.29	1.09
-do- Acc	91.93	96.76	+0.30	1.09
Monthly Income	140.70	149.60†	+0.90	4.66
Recovery	289.60	309.60†	+2.10	0.76
-do- Acc	338.20	361.60†	+2.40	0.76
Gilt Gth Tst	60.74	62.63	+0.16	6.92
-do- Acc	76.26	78.63	+0.20	6.92
FRIENDS PROVIDENT MANAGERS Castle Street, Salisbury, Wilts, SP1 3SH. Dealing: 0722 411411. Administration: 0722 411622				
Equity Dist	341.71	363.52	+3.82	3.07
-do- Acc	689.94	733.98	+7.70	3.07
Euro Gth Dist	100.31	106.71†	-0.01	1.10
-do- Acc	103.30	109.89†	-0.01	1.10
Fixed Int Dist	129.46	136.94	+0.11	6.68
-do- Acc	214.88	227.29	+0.18	6.68
Intl Gth Dist	72.54	77.17	+0.10	0.80
-do- Acc	75.04	79.83	+0.11	0.80
Nth Amer Dist	173.02	183.44†	+1.29	0.63
-do- Acc	187.80	199.11†	+1.41	0.63
Pac Basin Dist	213.76	227.40†	+0.55	0.38
-do- Acc	217.05	230.90†	+0.57	0.38
Stewardship Dist	289.75	308.24	+2.76	1.95
-do- Acc	342.80	364.68	+3.26	1.95
Stwrd Inc Dist	58.67	62.41†	+0.24	3.95
-do- Acc	71.98	76.57†	+0.29	3.95
N Am Stwrd Dist	98.51	104.80†	+0.31	0.03
-do- Acc	104.20	110.85†	+0.31	0.03
GT UNIT MANAGERS 8th Floor, 8 Devonshire Sq, London EC2M 4YJ. 071 283 2575. Dealing: 071 626 9431				
Am Sp Sits	147.60	157.60	+0.40	...
European	389.70	413.50	+2.90	0.96
Far East General	191.30	203.30	+0.40	0.22
Germany	92.69	98.14	+0.09	0.42
Global Assets In	65.34	69.89	+0.41	2.20
Global Assets Ac	68.47	73.23	+0.43	2.17
Income	108.50	116.10	+1.00	7.26
International	248.20	265.50	+0.30	0.98
Intl Income	74.91	79.71	+0.18	4.63
Japan General	296.00	313.60	-1.80	...
Smllr Cos Div	45.22	48.37†	+0.35	6.27
UK Capital Inc	149.70	160.20†	+0.50	4.11
-do- Acc	256.00	273.80	+0.60	4.01
Uk Spec Sits	68.06	72.80	+0.24	1.68
US General	116.90	124.50	+1.20	0.10
W wide Spec Sits	113.20	121.10	-0.20	0.11
GARTMORE FUND MANAGERS Gartmore House, 16/18 Monument Street, London EC3R 8AJ. 071 623 1212. Dealing: 0277 264421. Services: 0800 289 336				
UK Growth Funds				
British Growth	42.93	45.91†	+0.34	1.29
Cash Trust*	127.16	127.16	-0.02	5.83
Pract Inv Inc	99.83	107.06	+0.82	4.16
-do- Acc	213.13	228.56	+1.72	4.16
UK Smaller Cos	93.26	100.01	+0.71	1.81
Income Funds				
Preference Share	24.12	25.80†	-0.03	8.64
High Inc	30.06	32.15†	-0.03	5.60
UK Equity Inc	122.13	130.62†	+1.18	4.62
Global Bond	29.70	30.78	-0.11	5.37
International Funds				
Gold Intl	61.78	66.25	-0.28	1.77
Frontier Markets	41.53	44.54	+0.28	0.27
Global Inc Gth	118.26	126.27	-0.01	2.68
UK Intl	108.85	116.42†	+0.63	1.19
Overseas Funds				
American	132.05	140.96	+1.00	0.57
European	80.18	85.05	-0.07	0.95
Euro Sel Opps	91.02	96.82†	-0.11	1.23
American Emerg	79.78	85.55	+0.71	...
Hong Kong	98.92	106.08	-1.34	2.06
Japan	161.90	172.34	-1.60	...
Pacific Growth	136.46	146.34	+0.42	0.53
GOVETT (JOHN) UNIT MANAGEMENT Shackleton House, 4 Battle Bridge Lane, London SE1 2HR. 071 378 7979. Dealing: 071 588 0526				
Intl Growth	117.72	125.90	+0.80	0.95
American Gth	124.80	133.48	+1.26	0.35
European Gth	66.55	71.18	+0.73	0.82
German Horizn	46.48	49.58	+0.18	0.92
Japan Gth	61.20	65.45	-0.54	...
Pacific Inc	122.19	130.68	+1.87	3.22
Pacific Strategy	98.89	105.83	+0.95	...
UK Prog Inc	67.74	71.47	+0.46	6.11
Gt British Cos	47.36	49.91	+0.52	2.00
UK Small Cos	41.95	44.85	+0.26	2.60
GRE UNIT MANAGERS 36 Harbour Exchange Sq, London E14 9GE. 071 538 9668				
Cash	129.80	129.80	...	5.81
Gilt Fixed	119.20	119.20	...	6.65
Growth Equity	282.50	301.80	+3.40	2.36
Guardhill	417.60	446.10	+4.70	2.59
Income Trust	102.50	109.50	+1.00	3.86
International	148.70	158.80	+0.70	0.32
Japan Trust	99.69	106.50†	-1.80	...
Managed	...	...	...	...
Nth American	258.90	276.60	+2.50	0.36
Pacific	320.00	341.80	-0.10	...
Prop Shares	...	...	...	...
Small Cos	...	...	...	...
European	323.40	345.50	-4.10	0.66
HALIFAX STANDARD TRUST MANAGEMENT LTD PO Box 600, Edinburgh EH15 1EW. 0800 838868				
Global Adv Inc	33.98	36.02†	+0.50	1.84
-do- Acc	35.57	37.71	+0.50	1.84
Inc Adv Inc	29.05	30.80	+0.40	4.28
-do- Acc	29.96	31.76	+0.40	4.28
HAMBROS UNIT TRUST MANAGERS 5 Rayleigh Rd, Hutton, Brentwood, Essex. Enquiries: 0277 227300. Dealing: 0277 690398				
Canadian	65.11	69.75	-0.06	0.62
Equity Income	110.00	117.00	+2.20	3.79
European	129.40	136.80	-0.60	1.51
Intl Situation	70.69	75.20	+0.46	...
Japanese	110.30	117.30	-0.80	...
North American	104.00	110.30	+0.20	0.06
Scandinavian	99.30	105.00	-1.50	0.59
Smaller Cos	28.88	30.72†	+0.88	2.60
HENDERSON PO Box 2003, Brentwood, Essex CM13 1XT. Enquiries: 0277 227300. Dealing: 0277 234772				
Amer Smaller	94.76	101.34	+0.61	...
Asian Enterprise	114.77	123.23	+1.18	1.25
Australian	122.48	130.92	-0.16	1.46
European	344.29	364.81	-0.23	1.23
European Inc	66.25	70.12†	+0.01	3.47
Euro Sml Co	114.04	121.65	-0.58	1.00
Extra Income	251.05	267.26	+1.89	5.41
Family of Funds	66.38	70.89†	+0.71	1.21
Fixed Interest	55.19	59.01	+0.15	9.41
Global Resour	77.71	83.41†	-0.04	1.87
High Inc	270.55	289.21†	+2.74	4.75
Income Gth	227.56	242.34	+2.47	3.89
-do- Acc	572.64	609.85	+6.22	3.89
International	221.20	235.16	+0.63	0.95
Japan Spc Sit	181.67	193.27	-1.16	...
Japan	157.26	167.15†	-0.75	...
N Amer	240.11	255.24†	+1.98	0.31
Pacific Smllr Cos	153.82	165.74	+0.70	1.34
Pref Gilt	45.27	49.19†	+0.02	9.81
Smaller Cos Div	151.34	164.95†	+0.83	4.52
Special Sits	251.00	266.56	+1.63	1.47
-do- Acc	384.41	411.31	+2.51	1.47
Best of British	54.31	58.19	+0.74	2.33
Spirit of the East	52.72	56.25	+0.17	0.75
HILL SAMUEL UT MANAGERS NLA Tower Addiscombe Road, Croydon. 081 686 4355				
British	85.83	91.79	+0.82	2.32
Capital	149.70	160.10†	+1.10	2.46
Dollar	314.40	336.20	+1.90	0.28
European	185.70	198.60	+0.30	0.58
Far East	216.50	231.50†	-0.20	0.66
Financial	835.70	879.80	+5.10	2.62
Gilt Fxd Int Inc	25.40	26.38†	+0.01	8.24
High Yield	97.62	104.40	-0.90	5.26
Income	129.70	138.70	+1.20	3.63
Intl	201.90	215.90†	+0.30	0.52
Japan Tech	53.73	57.46†	-0.21	...
Nat Resources	53.12	56.81	-0.02	0.58
Security	285.40	305.20	+2.50	2.18
Smaller Cos	101.90	108.90	+0.70	1.79
Special Sits	128.90	137.80	+0.60	2.38
US Smaller Cos	75.69	80.95	+0.68	...
IBI FUND MANAGERS 36 Queen St, London, EC4R 1BN. 071 489 8673				
Brit O seas	244.10	256.90	+0.40	1.40
Capital Gwth	102.10	107.30	...	2.49
Inv Trusts	117.70	123.90	...	0.77
INVESCO MIM UT MANAGERS 11 Devonshire Square, London EC2M 4YR. 071 626 3434. Dealing: 0800 010733				
UK Specialist Trusts				
Smaller Cos	21.86	23.37†	-0.21	1.86
Special Features	26.13	27.76	-0.34	1.62
-do- Acc	30.64	32.55	-0.39	1.62
General Funds				
UK Growth	51.45	55.06	+0.41	2.70
Assets Earnings	68.67	72.96†	+0.73	2.05
do Acc	80.83	85.88†	+0.85	2.05
Managed Invest	80.43	85.95†	-0.11	1.39
Rupert Children	74.30	79.23	+0.73	1.77
High Income Funds				
Cashbox	50.01	50.01†	...	5.72
Extra Inc	75.89	81.27†	+0.72	5.37
Gilt	27.41	28.85†	+0.05	7.20
Income Gth	37.28	39.87	+0.33	3.78
MIMstar	75.93	77.95	+0.27	8.41
Preference	17.70	18.80	+0.02	7.11
UK Income	299.20	319.90	+3.20	3.60
Sector Specialist Funds				
Fincl Sec	52.45	55.72	-0.32	1.70
Property Shares	55.72	59.20	+0.69	2.20
Exempt Funds				
Exempt	136.90	143.90	-1.50	3.73
European Acc	106.60	113.00	-0.50	1.96
European Dist	101.50	107.50	-0.50	1.99
Overseas Growth Funds				
American Gth	51.33	54.57	+0.42	1.01
European Perf	101.40	107.50	-0.30	1.31
-do- Acc	103.30	109.60	-0.20	1.30
Euro Small Cos	19.14	20.40	-0.05	0.84
French Growth	64.10	68.21†	+0.20	0.68
-do- Acc	68.32	72.70†	+0.21	0.67
Hong K/China	59.98	64.52†	-0.82	1.64
Intl Growth	48.07	51.07	+0.09	1.24
-do- Acc	48.07	51.07	+0.09	1.24
Japan Perf	25.70	27.30	-0.38	...
Accum Units	25.70	27.30	-0.38	...
Japan Smllr Cos	27.35	29.03	-0.34	...
Singapore Asean	69.49	75.23	-0.45	0.63
-do- Acc	69.92	75.69	-0.46	0.64
South East Asia	202.20	218.00	..	0.93
US Smllr Cos	115.30	122.50	-0.10	...
-do- Acc	116.50	123.70	-0.20	...
Overseas Income Funds				
Global Inc	80.17	85.37	+0.18	2.74
Intl Bond	57.56	58.31	-0.27	6.46
KLEINWORT BENSON UNIT TRUST LTD 10 Fenchurch Street, London EC3. 071 956 6600. Dealing: 071 956 7354				
Income Trusts				
Cash Acc*	68.55	68.89†	+0.01	6.13
Extra Income	51.19	54.46	+0.75	7.07
Gilt Yield	118.40	124.00	+0.40	8.17
Global Income	185.90	197.80†	+1.80	4.32
High Yield	130.90	139.30†	+3.34	6.27
Smllr Cos Div	41.66	44.32†	-1.34	6.23
Capital Growth Trusts				
Amer Smllr Cos	94.56	100.60	+0.85	..
North American	78.40	83.40	-0.91	0.23
European	125.40	137.40	..	0.89
Euro Special	74.66	79.43	-0.21	1.04
General	262.30	279.00†	+3.92	3.45
Japan	309.40	329.10	-0.30	...
Japanese Special	165.30	175.90	-0.50	...
Master Acc	210.40	223.80	+2.40	1.47
Pacific	233.30	248.20	+1.40	0.37
Smaller Cos	90.69	96.48	-3.34	2.59
UK Equity Gth	33.32	35.45†	-0.12	2.79
LAS UNIT TRUST MANAGERS 113 Dundas St, Edinburgh EH3 5ER. 031 550 5151				
European	70.59	75.10†	-0.30	0.97
Extra Income	23.61	25.12†	-0.27	3.76
Far East	22.27	23.69	-0.18	1.02
Income Gwth	71.16	75.70	+0.08	2.95
Intl Growth	48.46	51.55	-0.04	0.99
Japan	49.96	53.15†	-0.55	...
Maximum Dist*	100.30	102.30†	...	8.15
N Amer Equity	41.55	44.20	+0.60	0.43
UK Equity	84.10	89.47	+0.95	2.87
LAURENCE KEEN UNIT TRUST MANAGEMENT 1 White Hart Yard, London SE1. 071 407 5966				
Income Gth Inc	52.07	55.39†	+1.32	4.80
LEGAL & GENERAL UT MANAGERS 5 Rayleigh Road, Hutton, Brentwood Essex. Enq: 0277 227300. Dealing: 0277 690395				
Equity Dist	417.70	444.40	+5.10	2.97
Equity Acc	786.60	836.80	+9.50	2.97
Equity Income	88.65	94.31†	+0.83	5.21
European	91.62	97.47†	-0.31	1.69
Far Eastern	153.60	163.40	-0.90	0.35
Fixed Interest	49.46	52.62†	+0.12	8.00
Gilt	90.10	95.55	+0.13	6.80
Global Growth	61.00	64.89	+0.07	1.05
Intl Bond	57.15	60.80	-0.33	5.40
Japanese	53.49	56.90	+0.75	...
Overseas Equity	89.34	95.04†	+0.17	0.87
Pacific Gth	75.77	80.61	-0.67	1.49
North American	142.50	151.60†	+1.90	1.11
UK Recovery	73.96	78.66	+0.81	2.62
UK Smllr Cos	96.44	102.60†	+0.60	2.06
Worldwide	72.25	76.86	+0.38	2.68
LLOYDS BANK UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD Mountbatten Hse, Chatham, Kent ME4 4JF. 0634 834313				
Balanced	311.70	331.60	+3.70	3.12
-do- Acc	674.90	718.00	+7.90	3.12
Cond Euro Gth	49.00	51.58	-0.20	1.49
-do- Acc	51.81	54.54	-0.22	1.49
Extra Inc	235.00	250.00	+2.60	4.09
-do- Acc	571.50	608.00	+6.30	4.09
German Gth	96.35	101.50	-0.30	0.28
-do- Acc	101.10	106.50	-0.40	0.28
Income	441.20	469.40	-11.80	3.81
-do- Acc	1118.0	1190.0	-29.00	3.81
Japan Growth	73.70	78.41	-0.98	0.01
-do- Acc	73.96	78.69	-0.97	0.01
Master Trust	50.56	53.79	+0.34	1.35
-do- Acc	54.99	58.50	+0.36	1.35
N American Gen	194.50	207.00	+2.50	0.01
-do- Acc	224.70	239.10	+2.90	0.01
NAm Sm Co Rec	144.00	153.20	+2.60	0.01
-do- Acc	147.00	156.40	+2.60	0.01
Pacific Basin	181.10	192.70	-3.30	0.52
-do- Acc	191.40	203.70	-3.40	0.52
Small Cos Rec	284.10	299.10	+1.30	2.43
-do- Acc	366.50	385.80	+1.60	2.43
UK Growth	76.67	81.57	+0.75	2.48
-do- Acc	89.40	95.11	+0.87	2.48
Worldwide Gth	266.50	283.60	-0.50	0.23
-do- Acc	392.70	417.80	-0.80	0.23
LONDON & MANCHESTER Winslade Park, Exeter EX5 1DS. 0392 282673				
General	76.00	81.54	+0.90	3.00
Income	58.34	62.60	+0.77	6.10
International	53.79	57.71	+0.15	0.80
American	61.68	66.18	+0.24	0.30
Japan	39.47	42.35	-0.30	...
Tst of Inv Trusts	52.46	56.29	+1.01	2.00
M & G SECURITIES LTD Victoria Rd, Chelmsford CM1 1FB. Customer Services/Unit Dealing: 0245 390390				
American Gen	403.80	426.60†	+5.70	0.78
-do- Acc	498.00	526.40	+7.00	0.78
American Rec	417.60	442.70	+7.80	0.59
-do- Acc	477.70	506.40	+8.80	0.59
Am Sm Co Acc	125.50	132.80	+2.00	0.07
Australia Acc	130.40	137.80	+0.90	1.84
Capital	603.50	638.20†	+7.90	3.21
-do- Acc	665.90	704.10	+8.60	3.21
Commodity Acc	367.50	388.60	+3.20	1.43
Compnd Gth	789.20	834.60	-10.00	3.35
Dividend	*33.10	35.40	+0.60	4.68
-do- Acc	128.70	137.70	+2.40	4.68
Equity Inc	280.50	300.10	+4.10	5.66
European Div	55.30	59.10†	+0.30	5.14
-do- Acc	62.50	66.80	+0.40	5.14
European Gen	362.90	383.80†	+2.10	1.72
-do- Acc	453.40	479.50	+2.70	1.72
Extra Yield	350.90	375.50	+7.30	4.97
-do- Acc	1008.4	1079.0	+20.80	4.97
Far Eastern	251.20	265.80	+2.00	1.57
-do- Acc	329.50	348.40	+2.60	1.57
Fund of Inv	473.10	500.30	+9.80	2.50
-do- Acc	853.70	902.70	+17.50	2.50
General	51.20	54.10†	+0.90	3.98
-do- Acc	134.90	142.60	+2.40	3.98
Gilt Fxd Int	60.70	60.70†	...	9.01
do Acc	130.00	130.20	+0.10	9.01
Gold	33.40	35.70†	...	2.36
-do- Acc	39.00	41.70	...	2.36
High Inc	23.10	24.40	+0.40	5.19
-do- Acc	85.20	90.00	+1.40	5.19
Intl Growth	65.40	69.30†	+0.70	1.08
-do- Acc	112.80	119.50	+1.20	1.08
Intl Inc	87.90	93.60	+1.10	5.29
Japan Gen Acc	39.80	42.00	-0.10	...
Japan Smllr Cos	113.00	119.40	+0.50	...
Midland	50.00	52.90	+0.70	4.62
-do- Acc	158.30	167.30	+2.00	4.62
Recovery	33.70	36.10†	+0.60	3.47
-do- Acc	52.90	56.70	+0.90	3.47
Second Gen	56.60	59.90†	+0.70	4.00
-do- Acc	138.50	146.50	+1.70	4.00
Smaller Cos	54.70	57.80†	+0.50	3.90
-do- Acc	103.60	109.50	+0.80	3.90
Trustee	36.20	38.30	+0.50	4.35
Charibond 3	†109.20	...	+0.10	0.87
Charifund 2	599.10	605.10†	-10.49	5.28
Pension ex 1	836.90	857.90	+13.50	4.62
NAACIF Inc 3	144.25	...	...	8.04
-do- Acc 3	†1043.0	...	-0.50	8.04
MARKS & SPENCER UNIT TRUST MANAGEMENT LTD PO Box 410, Chester X, CH99 9QG. 0244 680066				
Inv Port Inc	129.40	138.40†	...	2.59
-do- Acc	143.70	153.60†	...	2.59
UK Income	106.20	113.60†	...	3.16
-do- Acc	118.50	126.70†	...	3.16
MARTIN CURRIE UNIT TRUSTS LTD Saltire Court, 20 Castle Terrace, Edinburgh EH1 2ES. 031 229 5252				
Emerg Mkts	74.80	79.57†	+0.46	0.63
Far East (Pacific)	116.70	123.80	+0.60	0.46
Income Growth	68.72	72.95†	+1.01	4.44
European	62.41	66.25†	-0.07	2.09
Nth American	59.01	62.86	-0.85	1.15
UK Growth	73.40	77.91	+0.73	1.52
Intl Growth	85.55	90.81	+0.65	0.57
Charities	105.00	111.40†	+1.60	4.70
Intl Income	62.96	66.81	+0.77	4.70
Japan	39.69	42.13	+0.05	...
MERCURY FUND MANAGERS LTD 33 King William St, EC4R 9AS. 071 280 2860				
American	195.60	207.40	...	...
-do- Acc	209.10	221.70	...	...
Cash	100.30	100.30	...	6.68
-do- Acc	127.70	127.70†	+0.10	6.68
European Gth	186.70	198.10	-1.40	0.35
-do- Acc	199.40	212.10	-1.40	0.35
General	448.40	478.30	+3.40	2.68
-do- Acc	840.70	896.80	+6.40	2.68
Global Dist	133.10	139.60	...	5.20
-do- Acc	145.80	153.10	+0.20	5.20
Income	125.10	144.00	+1.60	5.06
-do- Acc	194.30	207.10	+2.30	5.06
International	355.90	379.00	+0.10	1.10
-do- Acc	472.00	502.80	..	1.10
Japan	146.50	155.40†	+0.40	...
-do- Acc	150.40	159.60†	+0.50	...
New Europe	127.00	135.50†	+0.10	1.48
-do- Acc	129.00	137.70†	+0.10	1.48
Recovery	275.60	294.00	+2.30	3.25
-do- Acc	344.20	367.20	+2.60	3.25
European Inc	72.02	76.27†	+0.78	3.08
-do- Acc	91.57	96.75†	+1.00	3.08
Brit Blue Chip	70.25	74.80	+0.40	3.57
-do- Acc	82.25	87.58	+0.46	3.57
Portfolio	71.72	76.25	+0.51	3.17
-do- Acc	80.36	85.43	+0.56	3.17
Gold General	56.90	60.70	+0.77	4.00
-do- Acc	57.68	61.53	+0.77	4.00
Pacific	82.43	87.92	+0.81	0.65
-do- Acc	87.13	92.94	+0.86	0.65
UK Smaller Cos	48.19	51.41	+0.19	1.73
-do- Acc	53.59	57.17	+0.21	1.73
MIDLAND UNIT TRUSTS LTD 192 Eyre Street, Sheffield, S1 3RD. Dealing: 0742 529 200. Enquiries: 0742 529 076				
Balanced Dist	56.17	60.07	+0.23	3.71
-do- Acc	56.17	60.07	+0.23	3.71
British Dist	76.79	82.13	+0.84	2.42
-do- Acc	84.82	90.72	+0.93	2.42
European Gth	161.20	172.10	-0.10	0.36
-do- Acc	202.40	216.00	-0.10	0.36
Extra High Inc	66.43	71.05†	-0.56	6.80
-do- Acc	115.50	123.50	-1.00	6.80
Gilt Fixed Int	56.10	58.46	+0.08	7.10
-do- Acc	145.60	151.70	+0.20	7.10
High Yield	210.10	224.70	+1.60	5.27
-do- Acc	482.00	515.50	+3.60	5.27
Income	267.80	286.40	+2.60	4.11
-do- Acc	556.40	595.10	+5.40	4.11
Japan Gth	262.10	280.30	-2.60	...
-do- Acc	276.70	295.90	-2.70	...
Mandarin Acc	87.61	93.70	-0.04	1.33
North American	169.40	181.20	+1.10	0.73
-do- Acc	212.90	227.70	+1.30	0.73
MORGAN GRENFELL INVESTMENT FUNDS LTD 20 Finsbury Circus, London EC2M 1UT. Dealing: 071 826 0826. Enquiries: 071 826 0123				
American Gth	261.10	277.90	+0.40	0.45
Deposit Inc	100.36	100.36†	+0.01	5.92
Deposit Acc	121.17	121.17†	+0.01	5.92
Euro Gth Acc	283.00	299.30†	-1.10	...
Europa	111.90	120.10†	-0.80	...
Intl Gth	156.70	167.20	+0.10	...
Japan Tracker	57.96	61.40	-0.69	...
UK Equity Inc	139.00	149.70	+1.40	5.28
-do- Acc	167.40	180.30	+1.70	5.25
UK Intl Tracker	138.30	148.10†	+1.60	3.57
US Eq Ind Trkr	196.20	209.70	+0.90	1.25
-do- Acc	206.40	220.60	+0.90	1.25
Asian Trader	133.90	145.10	+0.70	1.05
MURRAY JOHNSTONE UNIT TRUST MANAGEMENT 7 West Nile St, Glasgow G2 2PR. 0345 090 933				
American Inc	175.30	179.10†	-0.10	2.49
European	58.04	59.34	-0.13	1.34
Olympiad	51.51	52.82†	-0.04	0.73
Global Bond	46.91	47.43†	-0.15	7.08
Smaller Cos	58.00	60.50	+0.44	2.17
Equity Income	90.69	93.14	+1.04	5.03
UK Growth	82.02	84.57	+1.00	1.72
NM UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD The Bilton Centre, North Harbour, Portsmouth. Enquiries: 0705 372222. Dealing: 0705 387730				
American Acc	48.69	51.93	-0.35	0.73
Australian Acc	264.90	284.20	...	...
Conscience	61.41	65.53	+0.63	1.71
-do- Acc	65.94	70.37	+0.67	1.71
European	161.90	172.60	+0.10	1.25
-do- Acc	172.80	184.30	+0.20	1.25
Extra Income	70.48	75.21	+0.50	5.68
-do- Acc	105.90	113	+0.80	5.68
Far East Gth	137.60	147	-1.00	0.08
Gilt Fxd Inc	56.77	60.09	+0.16	7.67
Gold	26.81	28.82	-0.18	..
-do- Acc	28.87	31.04	-0.18	..
Income	50.26	53.61	+0.43	5.32
-do- Acc	150.70	160.70	+1.30	5.32
International	28	30.04	+0.11	0.90
-do- Acc	40.23	43.16	+0.15	0.90
Jap Sm Cos Acc	243.30	259.50	-0.90	...
S pore Mly Acc	152	163	+3.50	...
Smllr Cos Acc	23.29	25.04	+0.23	2.08
Special Sits	31.24	33.59	+0.36	1.82
-do- Acc	35.65	38.33	+0.40	1.82
Tokyo	64.31	68.59	-0.47	...
-do- Acc	64.96	69.29	-0.47	...
US Smllr Co Acc	109.70	117.30	+0.20	...
UK Equity	156.60	167	+2.60	2.71
-do- Acc	290.40	309.70	+4.80	2.71
N & P UNIT TRUST MANAGEMENT LTD 35 Fountain St, Manchester M2 2AF. 061 237 5322				
N&P UK Growth	65.64	69.83	+0.67	2.98
N&P Gilt Fxd Int	73.71	78.01	+0.13	6.91
N&P Higher Inc	175.00	185.70†	+1.30	5.15
N&P UK Income	95.94	103.62	+0.88	4.22
N&P Intl	83.16	89.42	+0.76	2.22
N&P Smaller Cos	68.59	73.36	+0.08	1.92
NEWTON FUND MANAGERS 2 London Bridge, London SE1 9RA. 071 407 4404				
General	154.21	164.06	+0.95	3.05
Global	255.99	272.33	+0.43	1.12
Income	190.48	202.64†	+1.05	4.48
Intl Bond	124.45	132.40	-1.18	7.43
PEARL UNIT TRUST LTD PO Box 500, Peterborough PE2 6BR. 0733 470470. Dealing: 0800 626577				
Growth	135.20	142.20	+1.60	2.82
-do- Acc	234.10	246.30	+2.80	2.82
Income	211.00	224.40	+2.20	3.89
Intl Equity	204.00	216.90	+0.20	1.18
-do- Acc	223.30	237.50	+0.20	1.18
Equity	211.10	224.50	+2.50	2.68
-do- Acc	427.90	455.20	+5.20	2.68
UK Intl 25 Acc	66.05	70.26	+0.58	2.17
UK Income	57.51	61.18†	+0.66	3.44
UK Smllr Co Acc	65.52	69.70	+0.53	1.85
New Europe Acc	59.25	63.02	+0.10	1.72
PERPETUAL UNIT TRUST 48 Hart Street, Henley on Thames. 0491 417000				
Asian Smllr Mkt	80.26	85.84	+0.02	0.25
PEP Gth Inc	93.93	100.47	+0.60	1.29
Intl Gth	441.91	472.64	-2.79	1.42
Income	275.53	294.69	+0.75	4.39
W wide Recov	274.71	293.81	+0.02	1.03
American Gth	205.15	219.42	+0.54	0.01
Intl Emerg Cos	168.03	179.72	-0.30	0.25
Far East Gth	167.98	179.66	-2.26	0.39
European Gth	104.47	111.74	-0.32	1.24
UK Growth	70.40	75.30	-0.10	3.24
High Income	75.29	80.53†	-0.21	5.32
Japanese Gth	154.46	164.65	-1.83	0.01
PROLIFIC UNIT TRUST MANAGERS Walbrook Hse, 23 Walbrook, London EC4N 8LD. Dealing: 0800 282443				
International	167.60	178.30	+2.40	0.95
High Income	104.80	111.50	+1.20	3.92
Conv Gilt	108.40	115.30	+0.50	6.50
Far East	276.90	294.50	-2.00	0.24
PROSPERITY UNIT TRUST MANAGEMENT 1 Seadams Hse Sq, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX. 0622 674751				
American	51.34	54.62	+0.12	0.54
Emerging Mkts	55.72	59.28	-1.00	0.24
General	46.66	49.64	+0.60	3.45
International	79.73	84.82	-0.07	1.34
Gilt Units	25.05	25.82†	+0.04	8.24
Global PEP	34.31	36.50	-0.23	2.14
Income Gth	61.15	65.05†	+0.79	5.41
European	41.24	43.87	-0.26	1.21
Gilt/Fixed Int	25.43	27.05	+0.12	6.16
PRUDENTIAL UNIT TRUSTS LTD 51/59 Ilford Hill, Ilford, Essex IG1 2DL. 081 478 3377. Pricebasic 0426 925091				
Pru Mngd Tst**	28.49	30.47	+0.07	1.83
Pru Csh Hvn Inc	102.02	102.02	+0.02	5.99
-do- Acc	103.80	103.80	+0.01	5.99
Pru Equity	643.42	688.14	+6.40	2.72
Pru Equity Inc	77.38	82.75	-0.35	4.38
Pru European	163.77	175.15	-0.26	1.92
Pru Global Gth	74.37	79.53†	+0.29	1.62
Pru High Inc	82.65	88.39†	+0.87	5.54
Pru Intl	146.93	157.14†	+0.28	1.38
Pru Intl Sm Co	62.98	67.35	-0.07	0.96
Pru Japanese	139.50	149.19	-1.82	...
Pru Nth Amer	148.05	158.34	+1.66	0.44
Pru Pacific Mkt	67.61	72.31†	-0.36	1.94
Pru Premr Inc	48.92	50.94†	+0.03	7.51
Pru Smllr Cos	77.43	82.81	+0.57	2.53
Pru Spec Sits	95.11	101.72†	+1.04	2.62
Pru UK Gwth	107.57	115.04	+1.14	2.52
** Formerly Holborn Trust				
ROTHSCHILD FUND MANAGEMENT LTD St Swithin's Lane, London EC4N 8NR. Dealing: 071 634 2981/4				
Income	150.71	162.15	+1.95	3.82
Japan	211.95	227.27	-2.90	...
Major UK Cos	91.87	98.81	+1.14	2.69
America Income	472.92	506.80	-0.05	0.65
-do- Acc	549.30	588.64	-0.07	0.65
Smllr UK Cos	243.44	265.16	+1.42	2.02
Smllr European	236.10	251.69	-1.01	1.66
SAVE & PROSPER GROUP 16-22 Western Rd, Romford RM1 3LB. 0708 766966 or 0800 829929 (IFAs only)				
Amer Inc Gth	72.87	77.52	+0.61	3.67
Capital Units	137.20	145.90	+1.90	1.60
Commodity	92.01	97.86	+0.21	1.36
European Gth	144.60	153.80	+1.20	1.50
Financial Sec	165.00	175.50	+1.80	2.02
High Return	206.30	219.40†	+2.80	4.95
High Yield	201.00	213.80	+3.10	4.39
Income Units	104.40	111.00†	+1.20	5.77
Investment	161.90	172.20	+3.30	1.72
Japan Gth	110.00	117.00	+0.10	...
Japan Smaller	149.50	159.00	+0.10	...
Masterfund	43.79	46.58	+0.54	1.25
Scotbits	243.50	259.00†	+5.20	2.13
Scotshares	240.50	255.80	+2.40	3.06
Scotyields	220.10	234.10	+3.10	4.30
Select Intl	122.50	130.30	+1.00	0.71
Smaller Cos	205.60	218.70	+1.30	4.76
Special Situation	104.00	110.60	+1.50	0.86
UK Equity	215.80	229.50†	+3.50	2.81
US Growth	145.10	154.30	+2.10	0.29
SCHRODER UNIT TRUSTS LTD 33 Gutter Lane, London EC2V 8AS. Client Enq: 0800 526 535. Broker line: 0800 526 540				
American	250.57	267.27	+3.78	0.67
-do- Acc	270.70	288.74	+4.08	0.67
Australian	118.56	126.46†	-0.20	0.28
-do- Acc	138.93	148.19	-0.23	0.28
UK Enterprise	196.04	209.10†	+1.71	3.12
-do- Acc	226.43	241.52	+1.97	3.12
European Gth	59.80	63.78†	+0.17	1.36
-do- Acc	61.90	66.02	+0.18	1.36
Euro Smllr Cos	52.99	56.52†	-0.17	0.73
-do- Acc	53.35	56.91	-0.17	0.73
Far Eastern Gth	62.43	66.59†	+0.12	...
-do- Acc	63.53	67.75	+0.12	...
Fixed Interest	52.50	55.35	+0.16	8.30
-do- Acc	62.89	66.31	+0.20	8.30
Gilt Income	103.30	108.87	+0.34	8.75
-do- Acc	139.67	147.19	+0.46	8.75
Income	296.58	316.35	+5.10	4.54
-do- Acc	859.04	916.33	+14.80	4.54
Japan Enterprise	51.42	54.84	-0.22	...
-do- Acc	51.42	54.84	-0.22	...
Japan Smllr Cos	323.24	344.78†	-0.44	...
-do- Acc	323.88	345.47	-0.44	...
Pacific Gth	79.56	84.86†	+0.65	0.57
-do- Acc	82.04	87.50	+0.67	0.57
Smaller Cos	175.78	187.49†	+1.22	1.34
-do- Acc	201.45	214.88	+1.40	1.34
Tokyo	82.61	88.11	-0.40	...
-do- Acc	83.44	89.00	-0.40	...
UK Equity	199.13	212.40†	+3.59	3.24
-do- Acc	368.74	393.33	+6.66	3.24
US Smllr Cos	131.37	140.12	-0.89	...
-do- Acc	131.37	140.12	-0.89	...
World Fd	67.01	71.47†	+0.68	1.75
-do- Acc	70.71	75.42	+0.72	1.75
SCOTTISH AMICABLE UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD 150 St Vincent St, Glasgow G2 5NQ. 041 204 2200				
Equity Income	41.33	44.02	+0.40	4.53
Equity Strategy	60.68	64.62	+0.43	2.10
European Opps	68.56	73.02	+0.38	1.22
Maximum Inc	97.47	99.98	+0.01	5.91
UK Smaller Cos	47.05	50.11	+0.16	3.80
SCOTTISH LIFE INVESTMENTS 19 St Andrew Sq, Edinburgh. 031 225 2211				
UK Equity	336.20	359.30	+3.60	3.02
American	256.20	271.80	-1.20	0.89
Pacific	276.30	295.50	-1.20	0.94
European	427.50	457.20	-1.30	1.33
Worldwide	75.30	80.53	-0.02	1.73
SCOTTISH MUTUAL INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT 109 St Vincent St, Glasgow G2 5HN. 041 248 6100				
UK Equity	297.60	316.60	+3.10	3.16
UK Sm Cos Eqty	189.00	201.10	+1.20	3.19
European	315.50	335.70	-0.70	1.57
North American	259.60	276.20	+0.20	0.61
Income Plus Inc	62.81	66.82	+0.92	3.55
UK Spec Sits	64.80	68.94	+0.47	2.70
SCOTTISH PROVIDENT INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT LTD 6 St Andrew Sq, Edinburgh EH2 2YA. 031 558 2341/2/3				
Equity Gth Acc	24.63	26.36	+0.29	3.16
Intl Growth Acc	26.46	28.32	-0.11	1.32
Global Inc Acc	29.76	31.85	-0.07	4.34
Market Ldrs Acc	24.87	26.62†	+0.19	3.16
SG TOUCHE REMNANT Mermaid Hse, 2 Puddle Dock, London EC4V 3AT. 071 248 1250				
American	86.19	92.18	+0.81	...
Euro Spec Sits	41.02	43.58	-0.25	...
-do- Acc	43.44	46.15	-0.26	...
Far East Opps	28.57	30.79	+0.15	..
-do- Acc	29.36	31.63	+0.14	..
General Growth	96.80	102.90†	+1.10	..
Global Tech	127.50	137.50	-0.60	..
Income Growth	97.92	105.10†	+1.20	3.93
Income Monthly	55.42	59.27	+0.34	5.12
Japan Growth	63.28	67.28	-0.43	..
Overseas Growth	70.92	75.50	-0.15	..
Smaller Cos	67.16	72.21	+0.83	1.96
Special Opps	91.36	98.23†	+0.83	2.14
Wld Spec Sits	42.99	46.27†	+0.05	...
-do- Acc	43.09	46.38†	+0.05	...
STANDARD LIFE TRUST MANAGEMENT LTD 3 George St, Edinburgh EH2 2XZ. 0800 393777				
Managed	42.47	45.13	+0.60	1.88
Equity Gth Acc	57.77	61.39	+0.50	1.21
UK Eq General	41.44	44.03	+0.60	2.43
-do- Acc	54.37	57.77	+0.70	2.43
European Acc	39.70	42.19	+0.50	1.51
Far East Acc	46.31	49.21	+0.90	0.40
Gilt Fxd Int Inc	29.93	31.66	...	6.65
N American Acc	45.70	48.56	+0.70	0.81
O/s Lgr Cos Acc	255.30	271.10	+4.70	1.75
UK Eq High Inc	34.57	36.74	+0.60	3.95
-do- Acc	40.49	43.03	+0.70	3.95
UK Lgr Cos Inc	283.70	307.90	+3.10	3.92
UK Lgr Cos Acc	364.90	396.00	+4.00	3.92
STATE STREET UNIT TRUST MANAGEMENT LTD Birchin Court, 20 Birchin Lane, London EC3V 9AQ. 071 626 1977				
Global A	N283.31	N283.51	...	0.89
US Eq	$1.970	$2.092	...	0.99
Far East Eq	Y196.9	Y209.1	...	...
Japan Eq	Y194.5	Y206.6	...	...
FT Europe	109.20	116.00	...	1.16
FT North Am	$1.688	$1.793	...	0.87
FT Japan	Y195.9	Y207.4	...	...
FT Asia Ex Jap	104.70	111.20	...	1.45
STEWART IVORY UNIT TRUST MANAGERS 45 Charlotte Sq, Edinburgh. 031 226 3271				
American	362.70	384.90	+5.50	0.29
British	910.80	963.60	-2.00	4.67
European	353.80	376.80	-0.60	1.69
Japan	115.70	123.10	-0.40	...
New Pacific	275.90	293.80	-1.70	1.62
Mngd Cash	95.77	95.77	...	5.74
Majority Stg	99.94	100.94	+0.01	5.88
Inv Tst	177.30	187.90	+2.90	2.05
Saints PPP	342.40	360.40	..	..
SUN ALLIANCE Admin, 5 Rayleigh Rd, Hutton, Essex. 0277 227300. Dealing: 0277 690389				
Equity Acc	709.70	759.00†	+9.30	2.56
N America Acc	119.20	127.50†	-1.00	0.24
Far East Acc	107.20	114.70†	-0.30	0.38
W wide Bond	61.28	65.08	-0.55	5.45
European	78.31	83.75	-0.76	0.79
Equity Income	78.94	84.43	+1.10	4.24
SUN LIFE OF CANADA Basingview, Basingstoke, Hants RG21 2DZ. Dealing: 0256 841414				
American Gth	34.99	37.43	+0.20	0.85
Managed Assets	114.73	122.71†	+0.82	3.70
UK Income	35.67	38.15	+0.46	4.04
UK Growth	35.55	38.03	+0.42	2.77
Worldwide Gth	28.84	30.85	+0.02	0.52
TSB UNIT TRUSTS LTD Charlton Place, Andover, Hants, SP10 1RE. 0264 346794				
American	206.43	219.61	+1.42	0.20
-do- Acc	226.73	241.20	+1.55	0.20
British Gth	83.23	88.55	+0.93	2.23
-do- Acc	97.13	103.33	+1.08	2.23
European	87.39	92.97†	-0.27	0.86
-do- Acc	92.18	98.07†	-0.28	0.86
Extra Inc	180.19	191.69	+1.57	4.57
-do- Acc	282.86	300.94	+2.47	4.57
General Unit	255.75	272.07†	+4.97	2.57
-do- Acc	504.54	536.74†	+9.82	2.57
Income	307.98	327.64	+0.03	3.78
-do- Acc	627.30	667.34	+0.05	3.78
International	477.52	508.00	+2.45	0.63
-do- Acc	624.19	664.03	+3.19	0.63
Pacific	299.18	318.28	-2.69	...
-do- Acc	313.33	333.33	-2.82	...
Premier Income	49.76	51.83†	+0.12	7.20
-do- Acc	102.17	106.43†	+0.24	7.20
Nat Resources	88.32	93.96	-1.16	...
-do- Acc	96.86	103.04	-1.27	...
Selected Opps	89.60	95.32	+0.69	1.28
-do- Acc	111.89	119.03	+0.87	1.28
TARGET TRUST MANAGERS Charlton Place, Andover, Hampshire SP10 1RE. 0264 346747				
American Eagle	129.10	137.70	+1.20	0.22
Australia	6.490	6.960†	-0.040	1.15
Equity	177.00	189.30†	+1.40	5.41
Euro Spec Sits	137.10	145.50	-0.80	0.60
Financial	37.49	40.00	+0.30	3.03
Global Opps Inc	86.34	92.14	+0.33	2.19
-do- Acc	89.49	95.51	+0.34	2.19
Gold Gen Inc	38.40	41.10	-0.19	1.07
-do- Acc	73.26	78.48	-0.31	1.07
Income	115.00	123.10	+1.00	5.01
Japan General	119.30	126.90	-1.00	...
Preference	21.45	23.04†	+0.09	7.87
UK Capital	99.87	106.80†	+1.00	3.16
Worldwide Cap	191.50	204.50†	+1.10	3.14
World Income	80.38	85.65†	+0.62	3.55
THORNTON UNIT MANAGERS LTD 33 Cavendish Sq, London W1M 7HF. 071 493 7262. Dealing: 071 493 8545				
Amer Sml Cos	69.23	73.84	+0.39	...
-do- Acc	71.41	76.17	+0.43	...
Cash	51.22	51.22	+0.01	6.24
-do- Acc	60.96	60.96	+0.01	6.24
European Opps	59.33	63.20	+0.28	0.47
-do- Acc	59.95	63.86	+0.29	0.47
Far East Opps	132.64	141.48	+0.38	0.69
-do- Acc	135.72	144.76	+0.36	0.69
Gold/Nat. Res	34.62	36.98	-0.35	...
-do- Acc	35.61	37.98	-0.36	...
Japan	61.75	65.76	-0.43	...
-do- Acc	61.75	65.76	-0.43	...
Little Dragons	62.85	67.04	+0.64	0.74
-do- Acc	64.48	68.77	+0.66	0.74
Oriental Income	38.88	41.47	+0.21	3.84
-do- Acc	49.08	52.35	+0.27	3.84
Tiger	200.21	213.55	+2.22	1.23
-do- Acc	209.42	223.38	+2.32	1.23
UK Small Cos	66.15	70.74	+0.80	2.30
-do- Acc	75.84	81.11	+0.93	2.30
UNITED CHARITIES UNIT TRUSTS Unicorn Hse, 252 Romford Rd, London E7. 081 534 5544				
United Charities	218.00	232.50	+1.90	4.53
WAVERLEY UNIT TRUST MANAGEMENT LTD 13 Charlotte Sq, Edinburgh EH2 4DJ. 031 225 1551				
Australian Gold	9.69	10.30	-0.14	0.50
Pacific Basin	28.44	30.25	-0.15	0.60
Canadian Gth	35.85	38.13	-0.87	0.10
Global Bond	$0.945	$0.984	-0.002	7.29
Penny Share	19.62	20.87	-0.15	1.50
WHITTINGDALE UNIT TRUST MANAGERS 2 Honey Lane, London EC2V 8BT. 071 606 3132				
City Reserve	52.08	52.08†	...	6.23
Gilt Growth	64.57	67.20	+0.03	...
Gilt Income	51.98	54.09	+0.01	8.00
Short Dtd Gilt	109.40	110.90	+0.20	4.47
US Govmnt Bd	$0.707	$0.717	...	...
Challenger	93.20	96.41	+0.48	...
WOOLWICH UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD 1 White Oak Square, Swanley BR8 7AG. 0705 388946				
Stockmarket Fd	65.45	69.83	+0.08	2.22

Source: Finstat

* Yield expressed as CAR (Compound Annual Return); † Ex dividend; ‡ Middle price; ... No significant data.

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Kingfisher in French bid talks

Continued from page 19

in Financière Darty, a management buyout vehicle that took over the company in May 1988. The Darty family holds 25 per cent of Financière and institutions, including Crédit Lyonnais and Banque Nationale de Paris, have 19 per cent.

Nigel Whittaker, an executive director of Kingfisher, said the group had made no secret of its desire to expand overseas, given the strong shares held of its two main specialist markets in Britain, electrical goods and do-it-yourself, through the B&Q operation. He said the deal offered the ownership of one of the most profitable electrical retailers in the world, a market leader in France, and with a management keen to do the deal. But Kingfisher would not commit itself unless the price was right.

Mr Whittaker refused to discuss the funding of the deal or its structure. While the market remains concerned about a possible rights issue, Kingfisher's gearing is now as low as 10 per cent or less and borrowings are about £100 million.

Nick Bubb, retail analyst at Morgan Stanley, said the deal was an excellent one for Kingfisher, but he was sceptical whether the two parties could reach agreement at a price acceptable to either. "Darty will only sell out at a huge price, and Kingfisher will never pay it."

Tempus, page 23

OECD warns Britain against giving up anti-inflation drive

By Janet Bush, Economics Correspondent

BRITAIN must put the task of restoring the credibility of its anti-inflation drive at the top of its agenda and ensure the weaker pound does not result in higher inflation, says the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

In its latest report on Britain, the OECD gives warning that, without monetary discipline conferred by an independent central bank, the government must resist the temptation to give up its medium-term aim of low inflation by giving in to political pressure "to support economic growth in the short term". It also warned the government to rein in the Budget deficit.

"Should a more aggressive approach to reducing interest rates be taken and/or current efforts to restrain government expenditure be less successful than planned, higher inflation would likely result, as sterling weakened and a domestic price and wage spiral built up. Output would be stronger for at most a brief period."

The OECD forecasts that Britain will return to growth this year, with a rate of 1.3 per cent, rising to 2.4 per cent in 1994. However, consumer prices will also rise to 5.2 per cent this year before falling back to 4.2 per cent in 1994. It forecasts manufacturing output rising only 1 per cent this year and 2.3 per cent in 1994, and unemployment increasing to 10.8 per cent of the workforce this year, falling to 10.5 per cent in 1994. Domestic demand is predicted to rise only 0.6 per cent, simply reversing the decline of that magnitude in 1992.

The OECD was optimistic on inflation: Britain's underlying performance ought not to deteriorate significantly. "Given the large output gap and continuing disinflation in the system, the initial effects of a lower exchange rate on inflation should be muted. Indeed, disinflation should resume once the effects of depreciation pass through."

This positive outlook would be at risk if the government allowed the depreciation to pass into inflation expectations and compensatory wage claims.

The report said the outlook was more than usually clouded by uncertainty. For example, the OECD said it was not sure how close the personal sector was to bringing its finances back to health after the borrowing spree of the 1980s. High household debt was one factor it cited in trying to explain why recovery had not materialised this year. "The failure of the economy to recover even modestly following the April election confounded the predictions of virtually all forecasters and analysts," it said.

Positive highlights of the report included the fact that business investment had held up relatively well during this recession, compared with previous ones, and that exporters should be well set to gain market share when world trade picks up this year and next. The OECD expressed surprise that companies had maintained such high dividend payouts during the recession.

The report applauded various supply-side reforms undertaken during the 1980s but urged more, particularly further improvements in vocational training, further tightening-up of regulation of privatisated firms to ensure profits were achieved through efficiency rather than market position, and, particularly pertinent in the run-up to the Budget, broadening the Vat base to those zero-rated items such as food and household energy.



Lawyer on trial: Thomas Ward "was promised a success fee" for his work with Guinness

Saunders had 'global dream'

By Jon Ashworth

ERNEST Saunders dreamed of using the takeover of Distillers as the platform for a global empire with offices in London and New York, an Old Bailey jury heard yesterday.

William Dwyer, a Beverly Hills lawyer, told the court of the "Park Avenue dream" that inspired Mr Saunders, former chairman and chief executive of Guinness, after the brewing group was cleared to launch a fresh bid for Distillers in March 1986.

Mr Dwyer, 57, was giving evidence in the trial of Thomas Ward, an American lawyer who played a key role in the Guinness takeover bid for Distillers. Mr Ward, 53, denies stealing £5.2 million from Guinness. He claims the money represented a legitimate success fee for his work during the bid.

The court heard that over dinner at the Piccadilly Hotel, central London, Mr Saunders drank champagne and spoke of building a London-based company with a strong American outpost headquartered in New York.

Mr Dwyer claimed Mr Saunders had said: "Money talks, Will, and I've sort of got my man here in Ward." He also claimed that Mr Saunders had said that whatever it took, they would have the money within Guinness to pay for it.

Earlier that evening, according to Mr Dwyer, Mr Ward had told him that he had been promised a success fee of "one fifth of one per cent" of the value of the bid. Mr Dwyer was promised a share but the exact amount was not specified.

The trial was adjourned until today.

HK Land tops up stake in Trafalgar

Hongkong Land revealed yesterday that it has exercised its option to acquire a further 5.2 per cent of Trafalgar House, taking its shareholding to 20.1 per cent.

Hongkong also has an option, which expires on May 3, to take it up to 29 per cent. But with Hongkong paying a maximum of 85p a share, it is difficult to see how the put option will be exercised. Trafalgar shares slipped 1½p to 92p.

DC Cook passes

DC Cook, the motor dealer, has passed its interim (0.2p) after £56,000 losses before tax in the half-year to end-October (£107,000 profit). British operating profits fell from £1.36 million to £883,000 but losses in Spain went from £124,000 to a £57,000 profit.

Bostrom buys

Bostrom, the vehicle seating and specialist engineering group, is acquiring AJW Holdings, an engineer, for up to £2.14 million, depending on future profits, with £1.79 million satisfied by 1.41 million new Bostrom shares, placed by Kleinwort Benson with institutional investors at 127p. Bostrom expects to recommend a 3.5p final, making an unchanged 6.0p to end-December 1992.

Abtrust rights

Abtrust Preferred Income Investment Trust is raising £16.4 million through a rights issue of new ordinary income shares and new zero dividend preference shares. They have been conditionally placed by Greig Middleton, but shareholders can subscribe for ten new income shares for every nine already held, at 83p. Shareholders are also offered one new zero preference for each existing share held, at 142p. Abtrust expects to pay a 2.90625p fourth interim at end-July in lieu of a final, making 11.625p.

Nestlé factory closure threatens jobs

By Gillian Bowditch
Scotland Correspondent

NESTLÉ Rowntree, the international food and drinks group, is to stop production at its biscuit factory in Glasgow. The group, which employs 550 people making Breakaway and Blue Riband biscuits at the plant, is transferring the work to a more modern factory at Fawdon, Newcastle upon Tyne.

With ironic timing, Nestlé is switching the production of Lion Bars from Newcastle to Dijon in France, where workers have been protesting over a decision by Hoover to move production of its components from Dijon to Cambuslang on the outskirts of Glasgow. Nestle's Glaswegian plant will phase out production over the next two years and seek a buyer for the factory and the remaining Gray Dunn biscuits business, to try to secure some continued employment in Glasgow. The company said it was too early to say how the decision would affect jobs. But jobs are clearly under threat.

Graham Millar, the Nestlé managing director, said the company was committed to setting up a jobs task force backed by £250,000 to provide assistance and advice for Glasgow employees affected by the decision.

Richard Leonard, of the Scottish Trades Union Congress, said the STUC wanted a requirement for multinational companies that relocated to Britain to give some guarantee of job security. "No one really wins on the multinational roundabout. But it is often easier for companies to close businesses in Britain than on the Continent."

Alex Neil, Scottish National Party economic spokesman, said: "It is ironic these jobs are ultimately going to Dijon. This circular shifting of redundancies round Europe shows the need for European legislation to protect workers and communities, to prevent multinationals playing one workforce off against another."

Social dumping row, page 8

INTERNATIONAL APPOINTMENTS

SUMMER JOBS IN AMERICA

American children's summer camps need cheerful, responsible young people (aged 19½–35) with solid office/admin experience to live and work with children from June to mid/end August. For those who are organised, flexible, outgoing and willing to take initiative and who would enjoy combining office duties with the full active life of camp, BUNACAMP offers:

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The Litigation Partner,
W.S. Walker & Company,
P.O.Box 265, George Town, Grand Cayman,
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LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

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LEGAL NOTICES

(A) CROWN COMMUNICATIONS GROUP PLC, (B) CROWN TELEVISION LIMITED, (C) LBC GROUP HOLDINGS LIMITED. Registered numbers: (A) 966598 (B) 1530957 (C) 2723041. Former company names: (A) and (B) None. (C) Atlantic Shelf 21 Ltd. Nature of Businesses: Holding Company. Trade classification: 32. Date of appointment of Administrative Receivers: 28th January 1993. Name of person appointing Administrative Receivers: Bank of Scotland, and Australia & New Zealand Banking Group Ltd. Joint Administrative Receivers: M.L. McKillop and M. Fishman, (office holder nos 5045 and 6470) of Arthur Anderson, P.O. Box 58, 1 Surrey Street, London, WC2R 2NT.

CAPTAIN O M WATTS OF LONDON LTD
THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Creditors of the above named Company, which is being voluntarily wound up, are required, on or before the 15th day of March 1993, to send in their full forenames and surname, their addresses and descriptions, full particulars of their debts or claims and the names and addresses of their Solicitors (if any), to the undersigned Jonathan Joseph Schapira, ACA Leonard Curtis & Co., 30 Eastbourne Terrace, London, W2 6LP the Liquidator of the said Company, and, if so required by notice in writing from the said Liquidator, are, personally or by their Solicitors to come in and prove their debts or claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice, or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proved.
Dated this 1st day of February 1993.
J.J. Schapira, Liquidator.

Case No 548 of 1993
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
LEEDS DISTRICT REGISTRY
IN THE MATTER OF CALDWELL INVESTMENTS PUBLIC LIMITED COMPANY
AND IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition was on 13th January 1993 presented to Her Majesty's High Court of Justice for the confirmation of the reduction of the capital of the above-named Company from £883,004 to £583,838 by the transfer of £589,166 to the profit and loss account of the Company.
AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the said Petition is directed to be heard before the High Court Judge sitting at the Courthouse, 1 Oxford Row, Leeds on Friday the 26th day of February 1993 at 10.30 am.
AND any Creditor or Shareholder of the said Company desiring to oppose the making of an Order for the confirmation of the said reduction of capital should appear at the time of hearing in person or by Counsel for that purpose.
A copy of the said Petition will be furnished to any such person requiring the same by the undermentioned solicitors on payment of the regulated charge for the same.
DATED this 5th day of February 1993.
LUPTON FAWCETT
Yorkshire House, Greek Street, Leeds LS1 5SX
Solicitors
for the above named Company

DOVECOTE DEVELOPMENTS LIMITED
Notice is hereby given in accordance with Section 175 of the Companies Act 1985 that:-
(a) At an Extraordinary General Meeting of the above-named Company held at 87 Camden Street, Birmingham, B1 3DE on 1st February 1993 a Special Resolution ("the Resolution") was duly passed approving a payment out of the Company's capital (pursuant to Section 171 of the Companies Act 1985) in respect of the redemption by the Company of its own) preference shares:
(b) The amount of the permissible capital payment as defined by Sections 171 and 172 of the Companies Act 1985 is £1,451,360.00;
(c) The Statutory Declaration and Auditors' Report required by Section 173 of the Companies Act 1985 both of which are dated 1st February 1993 are available for inspection at the registered office of the Company at 87 Camden Street, Birmingham, B1 3DE; and
(d) Any creditor of the Company may apply to the High Court under Section 176 of the Companies Act 1985 within the period of five weeks immediately following the date of the Resolution for an Order prohibiting the payment.
Dated 5th February 1993
A.J. Liatson,
Company Secretary.

HARMER HOLBROOK LIMITED
TAKE NOTICE THAT I the undersigned Michael William Young of Morton Thomson & Co., Torrington House, 47 Holywell Hill, St Albans, Hertfordshire AL1 1HD, was appointed Liquidator of Harmer Holbrook Limited by a Resolution of a meeting of the company's shareholders held on 26 January 1993.
Notice is also given that creditors of the company must send details, in writing, of any claim against the company to the Liquidator, at the above address, by no later than Friday 19 March 1993, which is the last day for proving claims. The Liquidator also gives notice that he will then make a final distribution to creditors, and any creditor who has not made a claim by the date mentioned will be excluded from the benefit of any such distribution.
The company is able to pay all its known creditors in full.
DATED this 1st day of February 1993
M W YOUNG, LIQUIDATOR

IN THE GRAND COURT OF THE CAYMAN ISLANDS
THE COMPANIES LAW (R)
(Chapter 22)
KAINES (UK) LIMITED
(IN LIQUIDATION)
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the creditors of the above named company are required on or before February 28, 1993 to send full particulars of their debts or claims to the Joint Official Liquidators of the said company. In default thereof, they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proved.
DATED this 27th day of January 1993.
G.J. Cleaver and G.H. Hughes
Joint Official Liquidators
The address of the Joint Official Liquidators is
Ernst & Young Becket House
1 Lambeth Palace Road
London SE1 7EU.

K H CONTRACTORS LIMITED
THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
A meeting of creditors of the above named company has been summoned by the liquidator at the request of a creditor, under section 105 of the Insolvency Act 1986 for the purpose of receiving an account of the Liquidators' acts and dealings and of the conduct of the winding up.
The meeting will be held as follows: Date: Monday 15th February 1993. Time: 3.00 pm. Place: 401 St John Street, London EC1V 4LH. A proxy form, which must be lodged with us at the above address not later than 4.00 pm on the 12th February 1993 to enable you to vote by proxy at the meeting together with a completed proof of debt form if you have not already lodged one.
Dated 18th January 1993
G.C.A. Morphitis and
R.H. Buckman, Joint Liquidators of Cape and Dalgleish 401 St John Street, London EC1V 4LH and Moores Rowland Nile House P O Box 1041 Nile Street, Brighton BN1 1LA respectively.

K H CONTRACTORS LIMITED
THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
A meeting of creditors of the above-named company has been summoned by the liquidator under section 105 of the Insolvency Act 1986 for the purpose of receiving an account of the Liquidators' acts and dealings and of the conduct of the winding up to date.
The meeting will be held as follows: Date: Monday 15th February 1993. Time: 2.30 pm. Place: 401 St John Street, London EC1V 4LH. A proxy form, which must be lodged with us at the above address not later than 4.00 pm on the 12th February 1993 to enable you to vote at the meeting.
Dated 18th January 1993
G.C.A. Morphitis and
R.H. Buckman, Joint Liquidators of Cape and Dalgleish 401 St John Street, London EC1V 4LH and Moores Rowland Nile House P O Box 1041 Nile Street, Brighton BN1 1LA respectively.

No. 009401 of 1992
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
COMPANIES COURT
RE. BUSHCREST LIMITED
(IN LIQUIDATION)
and IN THE MATTER of THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
On 13th January 1993 the above-named Court made a Winding Up Order against the above-named company.
Date 5th February 1993
Signed J R Sibley
Official Receiver and Liquidator
The Official Receiver
21 Bloomsbury Street
London WC1B 3SS

LEGAL NOTICES

No. 00683 of 1993
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
IN THE MATTER OF DUNKELD GROUP PLC
- and -
IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition was on the 26th day of January 1993 presented to Her Majesty's High Court of Justice for the confirmation of the reduction of capital of the above named Company from £5,248,470.94 to £450,000 and the cancellation of the share premium account of the Company.
AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the said Petition is directed to be heard before Mr Registrar Buckley at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London, WC2A 2LL on Wednesday the 17th day of February 1993.
Any creditor or shareholder of the Company desiring to oppose the making of an Order for the confirmation of the said reduction of capital and cancellation of the share premium account should appear at the time of the hearing in person or by Counsel for that purpose. A copy of the said Petition will be furnished to any such person requiring the same by the undermentioned Solicitors on payment of the regulated charge for the same.
Dated: 6th day of February 1993
RICHARDS BUTLER
Beaufort House
15, St. Botolph Street,
London EC3A 7EE.
Solicitors
for the above named Company.

Notice of appointment of Administrative Receiver
RESTWAY RETIREMENT HOMES PLC
Registered number: 1858613. Nature of business: Sheltered Housing. Trade classification: 23. Date of appointment of administrative receivers: 27 January 1993. Name of person appointing the administrative receivers: National Westminster Bank Plc. Joint Administrative Receivers: M D Gercke and P N Spratt (office holder nos: 2360 and 6278) of Price Waterhouse Bridge Gate 56-57 High Street, Redhill, Surrey RH1 1RX.

Notice of appointment of Administrative Receiver
RESTWAY MANAGEMENT LIMITED
Registered number: 2696620. Nature of business: Dormant Company. Trade classification: 23. Date of appointment of administrative receivers: 27 January 1993. Name of person appointing the administrative receivers: National Westminster Bank Plc. Joint Administrative Receivers: M D Gercke and P N Spratt (office holder nos: 2360 and 6278) of Price Waterhouse Bridge Gate 56-57 High Street, Redhill, Surrey RH1 1RX.

SLATEAGE LIMITED
T/A LEROY AUTOPARTS
IN RECEIVERSHIP
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Section 48 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of the creditors of the above named will be held on 12 February 1993 at 7 Kenrick Place, London W1H 3FF at 10.30am for the purposes of having an account laid before them, showing the events leading up to the appointment of receivers, the manner in which the receivership has been conducted and the property of the company disposed of, and of hearing any explanation that may be given by the Joint Administrative Receivers
Creditors whose claims are wholly secured are not entitled to attend or be represented at the meeting. A person is entitled to vote at the meeting only if he has given to the receivers, not later than 12.00pm on the business day before the above day fixed for the meeting, details in writing of the debt that he claims to be due to him from the company, and this claim has been admitted by the receivers for voting purposes. A creditor entitled to attend and vote at the above meeting may appoint a proxy or proxies to attend and vote instead of him.
DATED this 27 January 1993
P S Dunn, FCA
Joint Administrative Receiver

THE INSOLVENCY RULES 1986
Notice of appointment of Administrative Receiver
TSL Electronics Limited
Registered number: 615406. Nature of business: Electrical contractors. Trade classification: 07. Date of appointment of administrative receivers: 29 January 1993. Name of person appointing the administrative receivers: Midland Bank Plc. Joint Administrative Receivers: Gordon Christopher Horsfield and Roger March (office holder nos. 6599 and 5925). Address: Price Waterhouse 9 Bond Court, Leeds LS1 2SN.

Theatreland Tours Limited
THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a Meeting of the Creditors of the above-named Company will be held at Bridford House, 11 Clough Square, London, EC4A 3DE on 12 February 1993 at 10.30am for the purposes mentioned in Section 99 to 101 of the said Act.
Creditors wishing to vote at the Meeting must lodge their proxy, together with a full statement of account at the registered office - 28 New Street Square, London, EC4A 3LN, not later than 12 noon on 11 February 1993.
For the purposes of voting, a secured creditor is required (unless he surrenders his security) to lodge at 26 New Street Square, London, EC4A 3LN, before the meeting, a statement giving particulars of his security, the date when it was given and the value at which it is assessed.
Notice is further given that a list of the names and addresses of the Company's creditors may be inspected, free of charge, at 26 New Street Square, London, EC4A 3LN, between 10.00 a.m. and 4.00 p.m. on the two business days preceding the date of the meeting stated above.
By Order of the Board
Vincent Burke, Director.

THE INSOLVENCY ACT, 1986
H & V ELECTRICAL INSTALLATIONS LIMITED
(In Administrative Receivership)
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 48 of the Insolvency Act, 1986 that a meeting of creditors of the above company will be held at The Lake Hotel, 234 London Road, St Albans, Hertfordshire on Friday, 19th February 1993 at 10.00 am.
In order to be able to vote, details of your claim must be lodged at Torrington House, 47 Holywell Hill, St Albans, Hertfordshire AL1 1HD no later than 12.00 noon on Thursday 18th February 1993. In addition, a form of proxy must also be lodged prior to the meeting.
Creditors whose claims are wholly secured are not entitled to attend or be represented at the meeting. Creditors whose claims are partially secured should deduct the value of their security from their total claim and they will only be allowed to vote on the unsecured portion of their claim. Creditors should also note that Administrative Receivers can call for any document or other evidence to be produced to substantiate creditors' claims.
Dated this 29th day of January 1993.
M W Young
and N J Hamilton-Smith
Joint Administrative Receivers

THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
A F BUDGE (Road Materials) LIMITED - In Receivership
Company Number: 918177.
Nature of business: Investment in Property Trade classification: Other Services
Notice is hereby given pursuant to S48(1) of the said Act, that on 23 December 1992, P S Dunn FCA and I of Latham Crossley & Davis, 7 Kenrick Place, London W1H 3FF were appointed joint administrative receivers of the above company by Security Pacific Eurofinance Plc
Dated this 18 day of January 1993
J B Stephenson
and P S Dunn FCA
Joint Administrative Receiver
(Office holder nos: 7245 & 2368)

THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
VINIRON LIMITED
(In Receivership)
Company Number: 1415805.
Nature of business: Retail, Wholesale and contract packaging of spices. Trade classification: 16.
Notice is hereby given pursuant to S48(1) of the said Act, that on 18th January 1993, J B Stephenson and I of Latham Crossley & Davis, 7 Kenrick Place, London W1H 3FF were appointed joint administrative receivers of the above company by National Westminster Bank Plc.
P S Dunn FCA
and J B Stephenson,
Joint Administrative Receiver
(office holder nos: 2368 & 7248).

THE INSOLVENCY RULES 1986
Notice of appointment of Administrative Receiver
FW Taylor & Son Limited
Registered number: 317118. Nature of business: Electrical contractors. Trade classification: 07. Date of appointment of administrative receivers: 29 January 1993. Name of person appointing the administrative receivers: Midland Bank Plc. Joint Administrative Receivers: Gordon Christopher Horsfield and Roger March (office holder nos: 6599 and 5925). Address: Price Waterhouse 9 Bond Court, Leeds LS1 2SN.

LEGAL NOTICES

THE INSOLVENCY RULES 1986
Notice of appointment of Administrative Receiver
T S Lawton & Sons Limited
Registered number: 446251. Nature of business: Electrical contractors. Trade classification: 07. Date of appointment of administrative receivers: 29 January 1993. Name of person appointing the administrative receivers: Midland Bank Plc. Joint Administrative Receivers: Gordon Christopher Horsfield and Roger Marsh (office holder nos: 6599 and 5925). Address: Price Waterhouse 9 Bond Court, Leeds LS1 2SN.

The Insolvency Act 1986
GAINTWICE LIMITED
(In Liquidation)
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that F.F.A. Wessely of Cape & Dalgleish, 401 St John Street, London EC1V 4LH, was appointed Liquidator of the said Company by the members and creditors on 11th January 1993.
Dated this 27th day of January 1993.
F.F.A. Wessely, Liquidator.

The Insolvency Act 1986
HELMSLEY PROMOTIONS LTD
(In Liquidation)
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that F.F.A. Wessely of Cape & Dalgleish, 401 St John Street, London EC1V 4LH, was appointed Liquidator of the said Company by the members and creditors on 11th January 1993.
Dated this 27th day of January 1993
F.F.A. Wessely, Liquidator

The Insolvency Act 1986
ARTPLAN (ASSOCIATES) LTD
(In Liquidation)
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that F.F.A. Wessely of Cape & Dalgleish, 401 St John Street, London EC1V 4LH, was appointed Liquidator of the said Company by the members and creditors on 21st December 1992.
Dated this 27th day of January 1993.
F.F.A. Wessely, Liquidator.

The Insolvency Act 1986
J.G. TILBURY LIMITED
(In Liquidation)
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that John Colin Shuttleworth of Shuttleworth & Co., 20 Hillcroft, Loughton, Essex, IG10 2PS, was appointed Liquidator of the said Company by the members on 27th January 1993.
Dated this 2nd day of February 1993.
J.C. Shuttleworth, Liquidator.

TOTAL CONCEPT INTERNATIONAL BRANDS LIMITED
THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a meeting of the creditors of the above named company will be held at the offices of Pogelson & Appleby, 32 High Street, Manchester, M4 1QD on Monday 15th February 1993 at 11 o'clock in the forenoon for the purposes mentioned in Sections 99, 100 and 101 of the said Act.
Pursuant to Section 98, Subsection (2)(g) of the Act, Peter Lomas and Stephen James Wainwright of Pogelson & Appleby, 32 High Street, Manchester, M4 1QD are appointed to act as the Qualified Insolvency Practitioners who will furnish creditors with such information as they may reasonably require.
DATED this 29th day of January 1993.
BY ORDER OF THE BOARD
ALLAN DON, DIRECTOR.

PUBLIC NOTICES

CHARITY COMMISSION
Charities - 1. Sir William Lister Award in Ophthalmology
2. The Edridge-Green Lectureship
The Charity Commissioners have made a Scheme for these charities A copy can be seen for the next month at The Royal College of Surgeons of England, 35-43 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London WC2A 3PN, or a copy can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to St Aubyn's House, 57/60 Haymarket, London SW1Y 4QX, quoting reference number AML 2129/08A/7-CDL/dm1).

HOLLANDS BRIAN ARTHUR
Late of 8 Hobart Lane, Hall Road, Norwich Died at Norwich on 16th August, 1992
(Estate about £5,400.00)
The kin of the above-named are requested to reply to Messrs. Greenland Houchen of 38 Prince of Wales Road, Norwich NR1 1HZ (Ref: EAH)

Tokyo discount rate cut to post-war low

FROM JOANNA PITMAN IN TOKYO

IN AN attempt to revive the flagging economy, boost corporate profits and reinvigorate the sluggish stock market, the Bank of Japan yesterday cut its benchmark interest rate 0.75 per cent to a post-war low of 2.5 per cent.

Yasushi Mieno, the central bank's governor, said he hoped the cut in the official discount rate, the rate that the central bank charges on loans to commercial banks, would contribute to reviving the real economy through improved profitability of private enterprises. He made the decision to reduce the ODR because *"the adjustment phase of the economy is deeper than expected ... and consumer and corporate spending is increasingly slack"*.

Business and political leaders welcomed the long-awaited rate reduction, hailing it as a sign that the central bank had registered the serious degree of stagnation of the Japanese economy. Yoshiro Hayashi, the finance minister, said: "The latest official discount rate cut is a timely and appropriate step." He expects the cut to contribute greatly to sustainable economic growth.

Private sector economists were less sanguine about the effects of the cut. Rupert Middle, of Kleinwort Benson International in Tokyo, said: "The cut comes too late. It has already been discounted in the market."

The level of the ODR in Japan is generally considered to be more important as an indicator of official sentiment than as a direct determinant of market interest rates.

The influence on market sentiment yesterday of the 75 basis points cut and official *recognition of a dangerously* slowing economy, however, was not as impressive as it might have been. The stock *market lost ground, and the* Nikkei average closed at 17,190.63, having shed 31.40 points.

Japan overtakes US as key partner in east Asia

JAPAN is surpassing the US as the dominant economic force in east Asia, the fastest growing region in the world, the World Bank claimed, in a report due out next month. It warned that the change was prompting concern in the region that it was becoming too dependent on Japan.

The report said: "Without much fanfare, Japan is quietly replacing the United States as the key partner in the development of east Asia — in aid, trade and foreign direct investment. Lately, this has expanded to include financial flows and economic policy advice."

Japan accounts for more than half of the foreign financial government assistance now being promised to China, Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, the Philippines and other countries in east Asia, while the US share is less than 10 per cent.

The bank said Tokyo could play a major role in meeting the region's increased need for foreign help in the coming years. "During the 1990s, Japan might have to rely increasingly on Asia for its markets — and that process can be facilitated by increased capital flows from Japan to Asia, particularly investment flows," it said. *(Reuter)*

STOCK MARKET

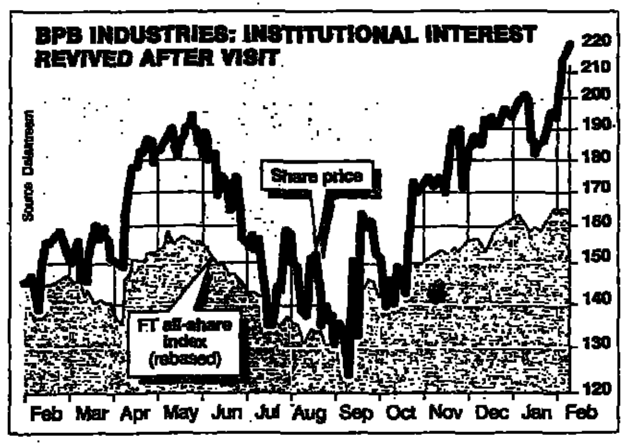
Shares end lower after touching a record high

SHARE prices breached the 2,900 level briefly for the first time but failed to consolidate their position after City investors expressed disappointment with the scale of the cut in German interest rates.

The FT-SE 100 index touched a record high of 2,900.1 in mid-afternoon, but then suffered a 34-point turnround to finish the session 7.9 down at 2,865.9. Sentiment was also hit by the failure of the Dow Jones industrial average to hold above 3,400 in early trading. Profit-taking in the wake of this week's strong gains and several small programme trades boosted turnover to 949 million shares.

Market bulls had been pinning their hopes on a cut of at least one percentage point in German interest rates and were clearly disappointed by the outcome. But such a large cut was never really on the cards. Last night, most dealers had concluded that any cut in German interest rates, no matter how small, was a step in the right direction. Traders say any setback over the Bundesbank's stance is likely to be short lived.

BPB Industries attracted revived institutional support after taking 26 brokers on a visit to the group's operations in France. The shares responded with a rise of 5p to 219p.



Tate & Lyle firmed 4p to 418p helped by a buy recommendation from Hoare Govett, its broker, on the back of a rise in the sugar price after the devaluation of the green pound.

Among the food retailers, **Tesco** slipped 3p to 254p as *Smith* New Court, the stockbroker, joined rival NatWest Securities by turning seller of the shares. The rest of the food *retailers also turned easier,* worried by the prospect of value-added tax being charged on food sales. **J. Sainsbury** fell *10p to* 568p, **Argyll** 3p to 380p and **Geest** of 8p at 663p. Cazenove, the company's recently appointed broker, is believed to have cut its pre-tax profit forecast for 1993 by almost 15 per cent to *£390 million. But, as other* brokers pointed out, Cazenove appears to have fallen more into line with other market estimates.

Lasmo rose 7½p to 168½p boost earnings. The Lasmo share price attracted speculative support last week after the resignation of Chris Greentree, the chief executive. Brokers claimed there was growing doubt about the group's ability to pay a dividend and this made it vulnerable to unwanted takeover approaches.

Kingfisher has confirmed recent speculation that it is in talks with Darty, the French electrical goods group. Kingfisher said talks had been conducted over four years and last night speculation was mounting that it is preparing a £1 billion-plus bid.

However, Darty said the talks centred on a link-up between the two companies and not a bid. Kingfisher fell 17p to 541p, worried by the *prospect of the group turning* to shareholders for extra funds to help finance any proposed acquisition.

Hi-Tec, the sportswear group, fell 8p to 59p as the price showed signs of boiling over after its recent strong run, which saw the price climb from 34p to 78p in the space of a month. Hoare Govett, the company's broker, is forecasting a loss for the year just ended, although *it is* expected to have broken even during the second half. In the first six months, the group revealed a loss of £2.5 million.

Rentokil, the environmental *services group, fell 5p to 214p* as a large parcel of shares went through the market. Smith New Court placed a line of 5 million shares at 207p with various institutions.

Redland, the building products group, jumped 8p to 465p after a presentation arranged by Kleinwort Benson. Brass, Redland's 51 per cent-owned German associate, is shrugging off worries about German economic recession. It says there is still demand for housing in former West Germany, while the group should benefit from the reconstruction of eastern Germany.

Northumbrian 10p to 409p. **Northumbrian Fine Foods**, the USM-quoted food snacks group, was suspended at 17p *pending details* of a reorganisation. Interim figures have been postponed until discussions have been completed.

RTZ suffered an early markdown before recovering to close off the bottom with a fall on news of of disposals totalling £126.5 million. These include a package of 17 North *Sea blocks to Deminex for* £105.8 million and the Balmoral and Maureen field interests to Pentex Oil of America for £20.7 million.

Lasmo said the proceeds would be used to reduce gearing about 14 per cent and

MICHAEL CLARK

WORLD MARKETS

German interest cut boosts Dow

New York — American shares surged to session highs in early morning trading as Ger*many's move* to cut rates was seen as bolstering sentiment worldwide.

The Dow Jones industrial average *was up* 23.77 points to 3,397.56 in mid-morning trade.

Jack Conlon, of Rothschild, said: *"The Dow is bumping* against its old high. You could see that breached today." The Dow's all-time closing high is 3,413, reached *on June 1 last* year. Advanciang shares outpaced declining shares by ten to four.

☐ **Frankfurt** — German shares gave up their early gains after *mid-session* as technical *pressure and* profit-taking weighed on a hesitant market.

Traders' attention had been riveted on the public sector pay talks in Stuttgart and on the Bundesbank council meeting in Frankfurt. No news had emerged from either by the end of bourse trade. The DAX index closed a marginal 0.08 point up at 1,601.61 after earlier reaching a six-month intra-day high of 1,612.40.

☐ **Tokyo** — Japanese shares ended slightly weaker after the Bank of Japan cut the official discount rate.

The Nikkei average slipped *31.40 points* to 17,190.63, with an estimated 260 million shares traded. *(Reuter)*

WALL STREET

	Feb 4 midday	Feb 3 close
AMP Inc	57	56¾
AMR Corp	63¾	62
Abbott Labs	27⅛	27⅛
Aetna Life	52⅞	51¾
Ahmanson (HF)	20⅛	19⅝
Air Prod & Chem	45⅞	45⅛
Albertson's	49⅝	50
Alcan Alumnm	19	18⅝
Alco Standard	41⅞	41⅛
Allied Signal	64⅛	61⅞
Alum Co of Am	75⅜	73⅝
Amax	18⅝	18⅝
Amerada Hess	50⅛	49⅝
Amer Brands	37⅜	37⅛
Amer Cyanamid	52⅜	52
Amer El Power	34½	34⅛
Amer Express	24⅛	24⅛
Amer Genl Corp	61⅞	59⅞
Amer Home Pr	62⅛	63¾
Amer Intl	127	125⅞
Amer Stores	42⅛	43⅛
Amer T & T	54⅞	54¾
Ameritech	74⅞	73¾
Amoco	53⅞	53⅝
Anheuser-Busch	59⅝	59⅛
Apple Computer	59⅞	60
Archer Daniels	26⅛	26½
Arkla	7⅛	7⅛
Armco	8	8
Armstrng Wrld	34	33¾
Asarco	27⅞	26⅞
Ashland Oil	27⅜	27⅞
Atl Richfield	118¾	118
Auto Data Pro	54¾	54½
Avery Dennison	27⅛	27
Avon Products	59⅝	59¾
Baker Hughes	21¾	21
Baltim Gas & El	25	25¾
Banc One	53⅞	52⅞
BankAmerica	53⅝	53
Bank of NY	56⅝	56⅛
Bankers Tr NY	69	68⅝
Barnett Banks	44⅛	44⅛
Bausch & Lomb	55⅛	55¾
Baxter Intl	30⅞	31⅛
Becton Dicknsn	79⅝	79¾
Bell Atlantic	54	53⅞
BellSouth	53⅞	53¾
Black & Decker	18⅛	17¾
Block (H&R)	40⅛	39⅞
Boeing	35⅜	35¾
Boise Cascade	24½	24⅝
Borden Inc	27⅛	27⅛
Bristol Myrs Sq	57⅞	58⅞
Browning Ferris	28⅛	28
Burlington Nthn	48⅛	48⅛
CBS	195	194½
CNA Financial	100⅞	100
CPC Intl	46½	46⅞
CSX	78⅛	77⅝
Campbell Soup	41¼	42
Can Pacific	13	12⅞
Cptl Cities ABC	499⅛	501¼
Cptl Holdings	79⅝	79⅞
Carolina Pwr	30⅞	30⅛
Caterpillar	58	58⅛
Central & SW	30⅜	30⅞
Champion Intl	31	30⅝
Chase Manhar	31¼	31
Chemical Bk	41¾	41¾
Chevron Corp	74⅝	74⅝
Chrysler	39⅛	38⅞
Chubb Corp	94⅝	94⅛
Cigna Corp	67⅛	66¼
Citicorp	26⅜	26
Clorox	45	45
Coastal Corp	24½	24⅝
Coca Cola	42⅛	41⅞
Colgate-Palmolive	59	59⅛
Columbia Gas	21¾	20⅝
Commonw Ed	26⅝	25⅝
Compaq Comp	50⅛	49⅝
Comp Ass Int	24⅛	25⅛
Conagra	30	31¼
Cons Edison	34⅝	34⅜
Cons Nat Gas	46⅞	46⅜
Cons Rail	57⅛	56⅛
Cooper Inds	49⅝	48⅝
Corning Inc	35½	37
Crown Cork	39⅛	39⅞
Dana Corp	47⅝	47⅝
Dayton Hudson	83⅛	83⅛
Deere	47⅝	47⅛
Delta Air Lines	52⅞	51⅛
Deluxe Corp	43⅛	43⅜
Detroit Edison	35⅞	35⅞
Digital Equip	44⅛	43⅝
Dillard Dept St	51¾	50⅝
Disney (Walt)	47⅝	47⅛
Dominion Res	41⅛	41⅜
Donelley (RR)	29⅝	28⅝
Dover Corp	46⅛	46½
Dow Chemicals	54⅛	53⅞
Dow Jones	29⅛	29⅝
Dresser	19	18⅝
Duke Power	37⅝	37¾
Dun & Brdstreet	58⅝	58⅛
Du Pont	47	47⅝
Eastman Kodak	49⅞	49⅛
Eaton Corp	79⅜	77⅛

	Feb 4 midday	Feb 3 close
Emerson Elec	56⅛	55⅞
Engelhard Corp	40⅞	38⅛
Enron Corp	52⅞	51⅞
Entergy Corp	35⅛	35⅝
Ethyl Corp	28⅝	28⅛
Exxon	61⅝	62⅞
FMC Corp	47⅛	47⅛
FPL Group	38⅝	38⅜
Federal Express	59⅛	58⅝
Fed Nat Mtge	82	82
First Chicago	44½	44⅛
First Interstate	51¼	51⅞
First Union Rlty	10⅞	10⅝
Fleet Finl Grp	34⅝	33⅜
Fluor Corp	43⅝	43⅞
Ford Motor	49⅝	47⅛
GTE Corp	35⅛	35⅛
Gannett	54	54
Gap Inc Del	36⅛	35⅞
Gen Cinema	37	36⅝
Gen Dynamics	116¾	115⅝
Gen Electric	86⅛	86
Gen Mills	67⅝	67⅞
Gen Motors	38⅛	39⅝
Gen Reinsurance	127⅞	125⅝
Gen Signal	65⅞	65
Genuine Parts	36⅝	36⅝
Georgia Pac	64⅛	62⅞
Gillette	57	56⅞
Glaxo ADR	18⅝	19⅝
Goodrich (BF)	50⅝	49⅝
Goodyear Tire	71¼	71
Grace (W&R)	39⅛	39⅛
Grt Atl Pac Tea	23⅝	23
Great Wstn Fin	19	18⅞
Halliburton	30⅞	30⅛
Heinz (HJ)	42¾	42¾
Hercules	67⅛	67
Hershey Foods	50	50⅛
Hewlett Packard	70⅝	71¾
Hilton Hotels	52⅞	50⅛
Home Depot	66⅛	66½
Homestake	10⅝	10⅛
Honeywell	33¾	33½
Household Intl	64⅛	63⅞
Houston Inds	48⅝	48
Humana	20⅞	20⅝
ITT Corp	75⅝	74
Illinois Tool	74	71½
INCO	22⅝	22⅛
Ingersoll Rand	34⅛	34⅞
Inland Steel	23⅝	23⅛
Intel Corp	106⅛	108⅝
IBM	51⅛	51⅛
Intl Flav & Fr	109⅝	110
Intl Paper	66⅝	65⅝
James River Va	16½	16⅛
Jhnsn & Jhnsn	45⅛	45⅝
K Mart	24⅛	23⅞
Kellogg	63⅛	63⅝
Kerr-McGee	46	45⅞
Kimberly-Clark	59⅛	59⅝
Knight-Ridder	64	63⅛
Lilly (Eli)	55⅛	56⅛
Limited Inc	29⅝	29⅝
LIN Brdcstng	81	81
Lincoln Nat	76	75⅛
Litton	49⅛	48⅞
Liz Claiborne	40⅝	40⅛
Lockheed Corp	60⅝	59⅝
Louisiana Pac	72⅞	71¾
MCI Commun	41¾	41½
Marriott	24⅞	24⅛
Marsh & McLnn	97⅜	95⅝
Martin Marietta	70⅝	70⅛
Masco Corp	33⅝	33⅛
May Dept St	76⅝	76⅝
Maytag Corp	15⅛	15⅛
McCaw Cellular	34⅝	34⅛
McDonalds	50⅝	50⅛
McDonnell D	56	56½
McGraw Hill	63⅛	63⅝
Mead Corp	40⅛	39⅝
Medtronic	91½	91¾
Mellon Bk	57⅝	57⅛
Melville Corp	52⅞	52⅝
Merck Inc	38⅝	39⅝
Merrill Lynch	69	68
Minnesota Mine	103⅛	100⅞
Mobil Corp	64⅛	64½
Monsanto	54⅛	54
Morgan (JP)	60⅛	60⅞
Motorola Inc	55⅛	54⅝
Natl Medical	10⅝	10⅝
Natl Semi	10⅝	11¾
Natl Service Ind	27	27
Navistar Int	3	3
NBD Bancorp	35⅛	34⅛
NY Times A	29⅞	29⅛
Newmont Mng	39⅛	38⅞
Niag Mohawk	20⅝	20⅛
Nike B	86⅝	86
NL Industries	4⅞	4⅞
Nordstrom	42½	41¼
Norfolk Sthrn	65⅝	64⅞
Nthn State Pwr	45⅛	44⅛
Norwest Corp	46⅞	46⅝
Nynex Corp	85⅜	84¾
Occidental Pet	18⅝	18⅝
Ohio Edison	23⅞	24

	Feb 4 midday	Feb 3 close
Oracle Systems	31¾	33¾
Oryx Energy Co	19⅞	19⅝
PNC Financial	31¼	30⅞
PPG Industries	65⅝	64⅛
Paccar Inc	63⅛	62¾
Pacificorp	20⅛	20
Pac Enterprises	19⅝	19⅞
Pac Gas & Elect	33⅛	33⅝
Pac Telesis	46½	45⅞
Pall Corp	20⅝	20⅛
Panhandle East	20⅞	20
Paramnt Commn	48⅝	47⅛
Parker Hannifin	33¾	33⅞
Penney (JC)	78⅝	77
Pennzoil	53⅝	53⅝
Pepsico	41¼	41½
Pfizer	63½	64⅛
Phelps Dodge	52	50⅞
Philadel Elec	28⅞	28⅝
Philip Morris	75⅝	75⅝
Phillips Pet	27⅝	26⅞
Pitney Bowes	41½	41⅝
Polaroid	29⅝	28⅝
Price Co	38⅛	37⅞
Primerica	58⅞	57
Procter & Gmbl	51	50⅝
Pub Serv E & G	32⅝	32⅛
Quaker Oats	65⅞	65⅞
Ralston Purina	49⅛	49⅝
Raychem Corp	41¼	39⅞
Raytheon	53⅝	52⅞
Reebok Intl	37⅛	36⅝
Reynolds Metals	55⅞	53⅞
Roadway Srvcs	70⅞	70⅞
Rockwell Intl	30⅛	29⅝
Rohm & Haas	57⅛	55¾
Royal Dutch	82⅝	82⅝
Rubbermaid	32⅝	32¾
Safeco Corp	64⅞	63⅞
St Paul's Cos	81½	80⅛
Salomon Inc	40⅝	40
Santa Fe S Pac	14¾	14⅝
Sara Lee Corp	29⅝	28⅞
Secorp	45⅞	45⅝
Schering Plough	58⅞	59⅞
Schlumberger	59⅝	58⅝
Scott Paper	39⅞	39⅝
Seagram	26⅛	25⅝
Sears Roebuck	51⅛	51
Shell Trans	51⅛	51¾
Sherwin Wlms	32⅞	32⅞
Skyline Corp	22⅝	22⅞
Snap-On-Tools	34⅛	34⅞
Southern Co	40	39⅝
Sthwestern Bell	71⅛	71
Sprint Corp	27⅝	27⅝
Stanley Works	41¾	41¾
Sun Company	30	30⅛
Suntrust	44⅝	44⅝
Supervalu	34⅞	34⅝
Syntex Corp	20	20⅝
Sysco Corp	26	26
TRW Inc	55	53⅝
Tandem Comp	14	14
Tandy Corp	27	26⅞
Telecom Corp	2⅞	2⅞
Teledyne	19⅝	19⅞
Temple Inland	50⅞	49⅞
Tenneco	43⅞	43⅝
Texaco	61	60⅞
Texas Inst	55⅝	55⅞
Texas Utilities	44⅝	44⅛
Textron	41⅛	43
Time Warner	34¾	34⅝
Times-Mirror	32⅝	33⅞
Timken	29⅞	28⅞
Torchmark	62⅞	62⅝
Toys R Us	40⅝	39⅞
Transamerica	50⅛	49⅝
Travelers Corp	30⅛	29⅞
Tribune	53⅝	54⅝
Tyco Labs	47⅛	47⅝
UAL Corp	125	121⅞
UST Inc	32⅞	32⅝
USX Marathon	18⅝	18⅛
Unilever NV	105⅛	105⅛
Union Camp	46⅛	45⅛
Union Carbide	17⅝	17⅛
Union Pacific	61	60⅝
Unisys Corp	12⅞	12¾
USAIR Group	14¾	14⅛
USF&G Corp	14⅛	14⅞
US Life	42⅝	41½
US West	40⅝	40⅛
United Tech	49⅝	48⅞
Unocal Corp	26½	26⅞
Upjohn	29⅛	29⅛
VF Corp	55⅞	55⅝
Wal-Mart Stores	67	66⅞
Warner-Lambert	66⅞	65⅞
Waste Mgmnt Inc	38⅝	39⅛
Wells Fargo	93¾	94⅝
Westinghouse El	13⅝	13⅝
Weyerhaeuser	42⅝	42
Whirlpool	48⅝	47⅛
Whitman	14⅛	14⅝
Winn Dixie	76⅛	76⅛
Woolworth	30⅛	30⅝
Wrigley (Wm) Jr	30⅞	30⅞
Xerox	84¾	84⅛

BRITISH FUNDS

THE cut in German interest rates failed to live up to investors' expectations and left government securities closing with losses on the day.

Prices recovered from a hesitant start ahead of the Bundesbank meeting but fell back later as profit takers moved in. On the futures market, the March series of the long gilt touched a high of £102½ before a turnround of almost £1 to close at £101⁹/₁₆ as 42,000 contracts were traded.

In the cash market, shorts bore the brunt of selling with Exchequer 9¾ per cent 1998 ending nine ticks down at £111²¹/₃₂, while at the longer end Treasury 9 per cent 2012 saw losses restricted to six ticks at £102¹³/₁₆.

Brokers still expect the Bank of England to step up the government's funding programme with an issue of existing stock later today.

1992/93 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
		SHORTS (under 5 years)				
104⅛	100⅝	Treas 12¾% 1993	103	...	12.14	5.67
100⅛	95⅝	Fund 6% 1993	100⅛	...	5.99	5.51
107⅝	103⅝	Treas 13¾% 1993	106⅛	...	12.93	5.52
102⅝	96⅝	Treas 8¼% 1994	102⅝	+⅛	8.26	5.43
110⅛	104⅝	Treas 14½% 1994	109⅛	+⅛	13.27	5.49
110⅝	103⅝	Exch 13½% 1994	109⅝	+⅛	12.35	5.54
105⅝	98⅝	Treas 10% 1994	105⅝	+⅛	9.46	5.54
110⅛	103⅛	Exch 12¼% 1994	110⅛	+⅛	11.35	5.66
105⅝	96⅝	Treas 9% 1994	105⅝	+⅛	8.52	5.66
111⅝	102⅝	Treas 12% 1995	111⅝	+⅛	10.77	5.84
96⅝	88⅛	Gas 3% 1990-95	96⅝	...	3.11	4.67
109⅝	99⅝	Exch 10¼% 1995	109⅝	+⅛	9.34	5.95
116⅝	106⅝	Treas 12¾% 1995	116⅝	+⅛	10.92	6.12
120⅛	109⅝	Treas 14% 1996	120⅛	+⅛	11.62	6.35
125⅛	113⅝	Treas 15¼% 1996	125⅝	+⅛	12.16	6.49
120⅛	108	Exch 13¼% 1996	119⅝	+⅛	11.06	6.49
111⅝	98⅝	Conv 10% 1996	111⅛	+⅛	8.99	6.62
122⅞	109⅝	Treas 13¼% 1997	122⅛	+⅛	10.84	6.77
113⅛	100⅝	Exch 10½% 1997	113⅞	+⅛	9.27	6.75
108⅛	94	Treas 8¾% 1997	107⅝	+⅛	8.11	6.75
132⅛	117⅝	Exch 15% 1997	131⅝	...	11.39	7.00
112⅝	97⅝	Exch 9¾% 1998	111⅝	-⅛	8.72	6.93
		MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)				
102⅝	98⅝	Treas 7¼% 1998	102⅝	-⅛	7.14	6.77
100⅝	86⅝	Treas 6¾% 1995-98	100⅝	+⅛	6.72	6.69
137⅝	123⅝	Treas 15½% 1998	137	-⅛	11.31	7.38
121⅛	107⅝	Exch 12% 1998	121⅛	-⅛	9.90	7.43
111⅝	97⅝	Treas 9½% 1999	110⅝	-⅛	8.57	7.24
123⅛	109⅛	Exch 12¼% 1999	122⅛	-⅛	9.98	7.56
116⅝	101⅝	Treas 10½% 1999	115⅝	-⅛	9.09	7.38
115⅝	100⅝	Conv 10¼% 1999	114⅝	-⅛	8.93	7.44
109⅛	94⅛	Conv 9% 2000	108⅝	-⅛	8.28	7.41
128⅛	114⅝	Treas 13% 2000	128⅛	-⅛	10.14	7.92
113⅝	99⅝	Treas 10% 2001	112⅝	-⅛	8.87	7.85
128⅝	115⅝	Treas 14% 1998-01	128⅛	-⅛	10.91	7.44
111⅛	98⅛	Treas 9¾% 2002	111⅛	-⅛	8.77	8.07
25⅝	21⅝	Treas 8% 2003	25⅛	-⅛	7.98	7.99
113⅛	100⅝	Treas 10% 2003	112⅝	-⅛	8.89	8.22

1992/93 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
120⅛	107⅝	Treas 11½% 2001-04	119⅝	-⅛	9.62	8.18
70⅝	59⅛	Fund 3½% 1999-04	70⅛	-⅛	4.97	7.39
109⅝	96⅝	Conv 9½% 2004	108⅝	-⅛	8.76	8.36
109⅝	96⅝	Conv 9½% 2005	108⅝	-⅛	8.76	8.40
128⅛	116⅝	Treas 12½% 2003-05	127⅛	-⅛	9.82	8.59
97⅝	85⅛	Treas 8% 2002-06	97⅛	+⅛	8.19	8.38
122⅛	110⅝	Treas 11¾% 2003-07	121⅛	-⅛	9.69	8.53
100⅝	89⅝	Treas 8½% 2007	100⅛	+⅛	8.48	8.50
135⅝	123⅝	Treas 13½% 2004-08	134⅝	-⅛	10.07	8.67
		LONGS (over 15 years)				
104⅝	93⅝	Treas 9% 2008	104⅛	+⅛	8.65	8.53
95⅛	85⅝	Treas 8% 2009	94⅛	+⅛	8.43	8.59
103⅛	93⅝	Conv 9% 2011	102⅝	+⅛	8.74	8.68
103⅝	93⅝	Treas 9% 2012	102⅝	+⅛	8.74	8.69
72⅛	62⅛	Treas 5½% 2008-12	72⅛	+⅛	7.63	8.44
92⅝	81⅝	Treas 7¾% 2012-15	91⅝	+⅛	8.44	8.59
130⅝	118⅝	Exch 12% 2013-17	129⅝	+⅛	9.30	8.82
101⅛	91⅝	Treas 8¾% 2017	99⅝	+⅛	8.94	8.78
		UNDATED				
45⅝	39⅛	Consols 4%	45⅝	+⅛	8.85	...
40⅛	35⅝	War Ln 3½%	39⅛	+⅛	8.81	...
63⅝	59	Conv 3½%	62⅛	+⅛	5.62	...
29⅝	24⅝	Consols 2½%	29⅛	-⅛	8.39	...
29	24⅝	Treas 2½%	28⅛	+⅛	8.73	...
		INDEX-LINKED				
133⅛	122⅛	Treas IL 2% 1994	133⅛	+⅛	...	0.91
197⅛	176⅛	Treas IL 2% 1996	197⅛	+⅛	...	2.30
108⅝	100⅝	Treas IL 4⅝% 1998	109⅛	+⅛	...	2.87
163⅝	139⅛	Treas IL 2½% 2001	163⅝	+⅛	...	3.25
159⅝	135	Treas IL 2½% 2003	159⅝	+⅛	...	3.36
109⅛	101⅛	Treas IL 4⅜% 2004	108⅛	+⅛	...	3.49
163⅛	137⅛	Treas IL 2% 2006	163⅛	+⅛	...	3.52
147⅝	124⅝	Treas IL 2½% 2009	147⅛	+⅛	...	3.68
152⅝	129⅝	Treas IL 2½% 2011	152⅛	+⅛	...	3.71
126⅝	106⅝	Treas IL 2½% 2013	125⅛	+⅛	...	3.74
133⅝	112⅛	Treas IL 2½% 2016	133⅛	+⅛	...	3.78
129⅝	107⅝	Treas IL 2½% 2020	127⅛	+⅛	...	3.81
106⅝	88⅛	Treas IL 2½% 2024	105⅝	+⅛	...	3.82
107⅛	91⅝	Treas IL 4⅛% 2030	106	+⅛	...	3.84

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:		FALLS:	
Grand Met	450p (+10p)	Barclays	445p (-14p)
Invergordon Dist	272p (+13p)	Lloyds	548p (-12p)
SA Breweries	863p (+13p)	Ryl Bank of Scot	239p (-10p)
Bellway	380p (+20p)	Nat West	460p (-21p)
J Laing	214p (+9p)	SKF 'B'	625p (-12½p)
Silentnight	270p (+14p)	Takeda Chem	727p (-15p)
WH Smith 'A'	426p (+16p)	Legal & General	455p (-15p)
RMC Group	592p (+12p)	Sun Alliance	337p (-9p)
Slough Estates	190p (+13p)	Compass Group	561p (-33p)
Yorklyde	350p (+15p)	Br Aerospace	278p (-9p)
VSEL	574p (+14p)	Trinity Intl	323p (-13p)
Ulster TV	308p (+11p)	*Br Airways*	288p (-8p)
Tanjong	420p (+37p)	Kingfisher	538p (-20p)
Haynes Pub	320p (+32p)		
News Intl	750p (+10p)		
Burmah Castrol	726p (+14p)		
Sappi	455p (+12p)		

Closing Prices Page 24

RECENT ISSUES

Foreign & Col PEP Inv Tst 108		...
Intl Food Machinery (51)	63	...
Mauritius Fund (£10¼)	£10⅛	...
OIS Intl Inspection (50)	66	...
Prime People Warrants	1½	...
Scottish Asian Warrants	245	+5

RIGHTS ISSUES

ASDA n/p (53)	7½	-½
Burton n/p (60)	12½	+1
Property Trust p/p (25)	18	+1
Stakis n/p (32)	12	-½
Wessex Water n/p (480)	92	+6

FT-SE VOLUMES

Abbey Natl	3,400	Coats Vly	3,400	Legal & Gn	2,600	Scot & New	1,500
Alld-Lyons	3,300	Cm Union	1,300	Lloyds Bk	3,100	Scot Power	4,600
Anglian W	2,100	Courtaulds	2,300	MB Cardn	1,800	Sears	3,100
Argyll Gp	4,000	De La Rue	426	Marks Spr	8,200	Svrn Trent	2,200
Arjo Wiggn	3,200	Eng China C	743	NFC	351	Shell Trans	5,200
AB Foods	1,500	Enterpr Oil	1,700	NatWst Bk	12,000	Siebe	1,000
BAA	1,500	Fisons	5,400	Nat Power	3,300	SmKl Bch	2,900
BAT Inds	2,300	Forte	5,100	Nth Wst W	1,600	Smith Nph	1,700
BOC	1,900	GRE	1,400	Nthrn Fds	6,400	Smith (WH)	4,500
BP	11,000	GUS A	1,100	P & O	1,800	Sthrn Elec	1,500
BT	12,000	Gen Acc	640	Pearson	954	Std Chartd	1,000
BTR	4,200	Gen Elec	7,100	PowerGen	1,900	Sun Allnce	3,900
Bk of Scot	5,000	Glaxo	7,700	Prudential	3,800	TI Gp	2,200
Barclays	9,900	Granada	3,400	RTZ	4,700	TSB	7,600
Bass	2,500	Grand Met	5,800	Rank Org	1,200	Tate & Lyle	2,200
Blue Circle	3,100	Guinness	7,000	Reckitt Col	701	Tesco	8,300
Boots	1,500	HSBC	7,500	Redland	3,000	Thames W	1,500
Bowater	948	Hanson	10,000	Reed Intl	725	Thrn EMI	874
Brit Airwys	6,300	ICI	3,200	Rentokil	10,000	Tomkins	3,100
Brit Gas	10,000	Inchcape	947	Reuters	784	Unilever	917
Brit Steel	39,000	Kingfisher	7,500	Rothmans	246	Utd Bisc	1,200
Burmah Cast	489	Kwik Save	1,300	Ryl Ins	1,300	Vodafone	6,200
Cable Wire	3,100	*LASMO*	6,100	*Ryl Bk Scot*	2,600	Wellcome	2,100
Cadbury	2,100	Ladbroke	5,500	Sainsbury	1,800	Whitbd 'A'	736
Carlton Cm	1,300	Land Secs	1,700	Scot Hydro	1,400	Wllms Hld	1,500

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones .... 3391.62 (+17.83)
S&P Composite .... 447.92 (+0.72)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Av'ge .... 17190.63 (-31.40)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng .... 5778.01 (+67.21)

Amsterdam:
CBS Tendency .... 95.9 (-0.9)

Sydney: AO .... 1531.4 (+1.3)

Frankfurt:
DAX .... 1601.61 (+0.08)

FT 30 share: .... 2218.9 (-6.8)

Brussels:
General .... 5918.89 (-4.54)

Paris: CAC .... 486.14 (+8.13)

Zurich: SKA Gen .... 471.8 (+5.1)

London:
FT A All-Share .... 1396.04 (-0.31)
FT 500 .... 1534.33 (+2.09)
FT Gold Mines .... 78.3 (-2.8)
FT Fixed Interest .... 110.98 (+0.11)
FT Govt Secs .... 95.41 (+0.15)
Bargains 41764
SEAQ Volume 948.6m
USM (Datastrm) .... 129.73 (+0.69)

TRADITIONAL OPTIONS

First Dealings	Last Dealings	Last Declaration	For Settlement
January 25	February 12	May 6	May 17

Call options were taken out on 4/2/93: Astec, Avesco, Birse Group, British Borneo, BTR Wts, Caverdale, Colorgen, Emess, Ferranti, Fleming Japan, Guardian, Hanson Wts, Mowlem, Rhino, Suter, Tadpole, Tullow, TIP Europe. **Puts:** British Steel, Cannon St Inv, Tadpole, Tay Homes, Trafalgar House. **Put & Call:** ASDA.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Close	Volume
FT-SE 100	Mar 93	2911.0	2918.0	2866.0	2875.0	15517
Previous open interest: 57115	Jun 93	2920.0	2920.0	2905.5	2887.5	26
Three Month Sterling	Mar 93	94.29	94.45	94.25	94.30	29279
Previous open interest: 288594	Jun 93	94.74	94.88	94.66	94.74	19123
	Sep 93	94.79	94.94	94.75	94.82	6361
Three Mth Eurodollar	Mar 93	96.65	96.68	96.65	96.68	455
Previous open interest: 20589	Jun 93	96.42	96.46	96.41	96.46	827
Three Mth Euro DM	Mar 93	92.13	92.30	92.11	92.16	82426
Previous open interest: 440413	Jun 93	92.97	93.15	92.96	93.03	83464
US Treasury Bond	Mar 93	107-16	107-28	107-16	107-27	75
Previous open interest: 817	Jun 93				106-19	0
Long Gilt	Mar 93	102-03	102-16	101-12	101-18	50809
Previous open interest: 66296	Jun 93	103-06	103-15	102-29	102-20	198
Japanese Govmt Bond	Mar 93	109.14	109.28	109.12	109.28	871
	Jun 93	108.47	108.62	108.47	108.59	205
German Govmt Bond	Mar 93	93.36	93.54	93.05	93.11	86557
Previous open interest: 147999	Jun 93	93.39	93.55	93.10	93.17	1950
Three month ECU	Mar 93	90.55	90.84	90.55	90.67	2457
Previous open interest: 14104	Jun 93	91.58	91.84	91.58	91.64	664
Euro Swiss Franc	Mar 93	94.80	94.97	94.77	94.89	13000
Previous open interest: 43067	Jun 93	95.13	95.29	95.13	95.21	4087
Italian Govmt Bond	Mar 93	96.30	97.00	96.23	96.56	17046
Previous open interest: 30693	Jun 93	96.20	96.70	96.15	96.41	48

LIFFE OPTIONS

	Series	Calls Apr	Jul	Oct	Puts Apr	Jul	Oct
Alld Lyon	550	60	70	74	8½	23	28
(*590)	600	25	37	46	27	45	50
ASDA	57	8	12½	14	4	6	9
(*61½)	67	4	8	9	8	11½	14
Bass	600	32	48	60	23	37	43
(*599)	650	12	27	39	56	69	72
Boots	500	24	34	45	18	32	36
(*499)	550	6½	15	25	53	65	66
Br Airways	260	24	31	36	11	22	26
(*287½)	300	15	21	27	21	33	37
BP	240	34	40	42	4	8½	11½
(*268½)	260	17½	27	30	9½	15	19
	280	9	17	21	20	26	29
Br Steel	70	15	18	20	3	6½	8
(*79½)	80	8½	12½	15	7	11	12
C & W	700	50	70	81	17	36	42
(*711½)	750	24	43	57	41	62	69
CU	600	35	48	56	20	31	40
*(*620)*	*650*	*11*	*26*	*34*	*53*	*61*	*69*
Courtauld	550	48	57	68	13	28	34
(*573)	600	19	33	43	38	54	60
GKN	460	22	32	41	25	32	37
(*465)	500	7	17	24	54	59	62
Grnd Met	420	42	56	65	8	17	23
*(*450)*	*460*	*19*	*32*	*43*	*25*	*35*	*41*
ICI	1100	45	76	88	58	77	94
(*1119½)	1150	27	57	65	90	110	130
	1200	15	41	48	130	143	160
Kingfshr	550	25	38	45	30	45	53
(*544½)	600	8½	19	28	63	80	84
Ladbroke	*200*	*19*	*26*	*30*	*17*	*24*	*31*
(*201½)	220	10	16	24	30	36	43
Land Sec	460	47	53	57	4	16	19
(*490)	500	20	27	32	16	35	38
M & S	330	22	30	36	9	17	21
(*339)	360	6	16	22	25	33	39
Sainsbury	*550*	*43*	*54*	*63*	*12*	*24*	*29*
(*566½)	600	15	28	38	38	50	56
Shell	550	40	50	57	9	16	23
(*583)	600	10	24	30	36	42	48
Smkl Bch	460	36	52	60	14	24	29
(*471)	500	16	32	41	35	46	51
Storehse	*200*	*18*	*26*	*30*	*10*	*17*	*19*
(*202½)	220	10	17	22	22	27	31
Trafalgar	90	11	14	18	8	11	13
(*92)	100	6½	11	13	12	17	18
Unilever	1100	75	94	114	17	32	39
(*1150)	1150	41	63	85	39	53	62
Utd Bisc	*360*	*21*	*29*	*37*	*16*	*22*	*28*
(*371½)	390	7½	16	23	37	42	46

	Series	Calls Feb	May	Aug	Puts Feb	May	Aug
BAA	750	49	68	78	4	16	28
*(*789)*	*800*	*14*	*38*	*49*	*22*	*37*	*580*
BAT Ind	950	54	65	79	6	32	42
(*990)	1000	19	38	54	25	58	67
BTR	550	29	37	46	3½	18	22
(*564½)	600	4	13	21	31	47	50
Br Aero	280	18	38	53	16	38	49
(*277½)	300	11	30	45	28	50	61
Br Telcm	390	39	47	52	2	5	11
(*423)	420	13	25	32	6½	15	23
Cadbury	460	17	25	35	8	24	30
(*467)	500	3½	11	19	37	51	55
Guinness	*460*	*35*	*44*	*52*	*4*	*15*	*24*
(*480½)	500	9	20	34	23	37	45
GEC	300	7½	17	22	7	13	20
(*298½)	330	1	5½	10	31	32	40
Hanson	260	8½	15½	20	4	11	15½
(*260½)	280	1	6½	10½	17	23	26
LASMO	*160*	*12*	*19*	*27*	*6*	*15*	*19*
(*166)	180	4	11½	18	17	26	31
Lucas	140	14	22	25	4½	12	16
(*150)	160	4	11	16	16	25	28
P & O	550	35	52	64	8	33	45
(*564)	600	8	27	40	35	64	74
Pilkingtn	*100*	*11*	*19*	*24*	*4½*	*10*	*15*
(*107½)	110	6	13	19	9	15	21
Prudential	300	21	29	33	2½	11	15
(*319)	330	5	13	18	14	27	31
RTZ	650	26	40	55	12	34	43
(*662½)	700	6	21	34	44	67	75
Scot New	420	23	38	45	5	13	24
(*437)	460	4½	17	24	26	35	48
Tesco	240	20	24	30	3	10	12
(*254)	260	7	15	20	10	20	22
Thames W	460	29	42	46	3½	10	20
(*486½)	500	5	19	24	20	27	40
Vodafone	*390*	*18*	*34*	*42*	*6*	*20*	*29*
(*398½)	420	5	20	28	27	37	45

FT-SE INDEX (*2868)

	2750	2800	2850	2900	2950	3000
Calls						
Feb	164	90	49	21	10	3½
Mar	178	127	79	52	32	17
Apr	170	133	105	72	65	43
May	191	154	123	92	74	55
Jun	—	168	—	113	—	75
Puts						
Feb	5	12	28	52	91	131
Mar	20	30	48	76	102	135
Apr	31	43	59	83	116	140
May	39	58	77	101	125	166
Jun	—	68	—	102	—	170

	Series	Calls Mar	Jun	Sep	Puts Mar	Jun	Sep
Abby Nat	360	23	30	37	12	18	24
*(*379)*	*390*	*8*	*16*	*24*	*31*	*35*	*40*
Amstrad	20	5½	6½	7½	1½	1½	2½
(*24)	25	2½	3½	4	3½	4	4½
Barclays	420	38	46	53	15	23	32
(*444½)	460	15	26	34	38	45	55
Blue Circ	220	22	27	36	11	20	26
(*226)	240	10	19	28	22	32	37
Br Gas	260	36	37	40	2	5½	8½
(*290)	280	18	21	27	5	12½	16
	300	7	11½	17	15	24	27
Dixons	220	15	24	27	13	20	27
*(*224)*	*240*	*7*	*15*	*19*	*27*	*33*	*39*
Eurotnnl	420	38	55	70	20	32	45
(*442½)	460	16	34	50	45	57	65
Forte	180	16	20	25	8	17	22
*(*186)*	*200*	*6½*	*12*	*17*	*20*	*30*	*34*
Glaxo	650	45	68	88	24	40	49
*(*655½)*	*700*	*20*	*43*	*59*	*52*	*65*	*75*
	750	8	26	45	92	100	108
HSBC	550	44	57	72	17	34	45
(*576½)	600	19	33	49	43	61	71
Hillsdwn	140	17	22	26	6	14	18
(*148½)	160	7	12	17	17	27	31
Lonrho	*70*	*8½*	*12*	*15*	*5*	*8*	*11*
(*75½)	80	4½	8	11	11½	14½	17
Reuter	1400	62	108	135	47	78	100
(*1409)	1450	40	82	113	78	103	122
R-Royce	130	12½	16½	20½	8	13	15½
(*136)	140	7½	12½	17	13	18	21
Sears	*100*	*9*	*11½*	*15*	*4½*	*8*	*10*
(*103)	110	4½	7½	10	8½	13	15
Thrn Emi	800	65	84	94	10	19	37
(*848)	850	30	52	65	26	39	59
TSB	160	14	18	22	6	10	14
(*169)	180	5	9	13	18	21	25
Vaal Reefs	*30*	*6*	*6*	*6½*	*1¼*	*4*	*4½*
(*34)	35	2	4	5½	5½	6	8
Wellcome	850	52	77	99	26	47	60
(*865½)	900	27	53	75	51	72	85

	Series	Apr	Jul	Oct	Apr	Jul	Oct
Fisons	220	25	34	41	17	25	31
(*236½)	240	14½	26	34	27	38	44

	Series	Feb	May	Aug	Feb	May	Aug
Eastrn Elc	400	19	36	-	5	13	-
(*417)	430	5	-	-	19	-	-

	Series	Mar	Jun	Sep	Mar	Jun	Sep
Natl Pwr	280	25	32	37	5½	10	17
(*297½)	300	11½	21	26	14	19	27
Scot Pwr	200	22	27	31	1½	4½	10½
(*219½)	220	8	14	19	8	12½	20

February 4, 1993 Tot: 43734 Call: 25638 Put: 17896 FT-SE Call: 9452 Put: 8217
*Underlying security price.

COMMODITIES

REPORT: Cocoa futures finished near the day's lows and with sentiment on charts becoming increasingly bearish, there looked to be scope for further losses. Robusta coffee futures managed to partially recoup earlier losses during the afternoon session as the market remained very volatile. Wheat prices moved to day lows, down still on light trade as specs became nervous. White sugar futures showed small gains.

LONDON FOX
COCOA

Mar	694-693	May	787 SLR
May	705-704	Jul	802-801
Jul	718-717	Sep	817-816
Sep	731-730	Dec	847-845
Dec	752-751		
Mar	772 SLR		Volume: 8029

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

Mar	930-929	Nov	940-937
May	928-927	Jan	955-945
Jul	917-916	Mar	970-950
Sep	925-919		Volume: 2402

RAW SUGAR (FOB)

C Czarnikow		Oct	190.0-88.0
Spot: 173.9		Dec	196.0-92.0
Mar	185.0-83.0	Mar	197.0-93.0
May	192.0-90.0	May	198.0-97.0
Aug	194.0-92.0		Volume: 28

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Oct	243.1-42.3
Spot: 259.0		Dec	243.6-41.3
Mar	252.6-52.4	Mar	244.1-40.8
May	254.8-54.6	May	247.1-41.8
Aug	257.8-57.0		Volume: 568

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION
Average fatstock prices at representative markets on February 4

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB:	81.38	95.87	122.32
(+/-)	-2.45	-0.17	-1.95
Eng/Wales:	81.54	95.82	122.48
(+/-)	-2.37	-0.41	-1.72
(%)	+5.8	-42.7	-11.1
Scotland:	70.29	96.35	121.45
(+/-)	-6.26	+1.04	+2.48
(%)	-48.3	-75.2	-39.6

LONDON MEAT FUTURES
Live Pig (/kg)

	Open	Close		Open	Close
Feb	unq	unq	May	107.0	107.0
Apr	107.0	107.0			Volume: 8

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES
WHEAT (close £/t)

Mar	142.35
May	143.65
Jun	144.55
Sep	111.60
Nov	113.00
	Volume: 346

BARLEY (close £/t)

Mar	137.00
May	137.75
Sep	109.10
Nov	111.95
Jan	115.75
	Volume: 110

HI-PRO SOYA (close £/t)

Feb	164.00
Apr	*158.00*
Jun	148.50
Aug	149.00
Oct	unq
	Volume: 50

POTATO

(£/t)	Open	Close
Apr	50.0	49.8
May	59.0	57.5
Apr	unq	88.0
		Volume: 168

RUBBER
No 1 RSS Cif (p/kg)
Mar 69.75-69.25

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm): News that the Opec President was confident of production cuts helped oil prices to post gains.

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	18.70	+0.30
Brent 15 day (Feb)	18.75	+0.35
Brent 15 day (Mar)	18.60	+0.30
W Texas Intermediate (Mar)	*20.30*	+0.30
W Texas Intermediate (Apr)	20.30	+0.30

PRODUCTS ($/MT)
Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

	Bid:	Offer:
Premium Gas .15	191 (+1)	193 (+1)
Gasoil EEC	172 (+3)	173 (+4)
Non EEC 1H Mar	174 (+4)	175 (+4)
Non EEC 1H Apr	174 (+3)	175 (+3)
3.5 Fuel Oil	69 (n/c)	70 (-1)
Naphtha	182 (+1)	183 (+1)

IPE FUTURES
GNI Ltd
GAS OIL

Feb	169.50-69.75	May	170.75-71.00
Mar	*171.25-71.50*	Jun	*170.50-70.75*
Apr	171.00-71.25	Jul	172.25-72.50
			Vol: 19358

BRENT (6.00pm)

Mar	18.58 BID	Jun	18.57-18.60
Apr	*18.55 BID*	*Jul*	*18.58-18.63*
May	18.55-18.57		Vol: 25757

UNLEADED GASOLINE

Feb	193.50-94.00	May	199.00-203.0
Mar	193.00-95.50	Jun	198.00-202.0
Apr	*202.00-204.0*		*Vol: 98*

BIFFEX
GNI Ltd ($10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Feb 93	1290	1280	1293
Mar 93	*1314*	*1306*	*1314*
Apr 93	1305	1298	1304
Jul 93	1340	1335	1340

Vol: 169 lots Open inrst: 2774 Index 1274 same

(Official) (Volume prev day)	LONDON METAL EXCHANGE		Rudolf Wolff
Copper Gde A (£/tonne)	Cash: 1536.5-1537.0	3mth: 1559.0-1559.5	Vol: 632800
Lead (£/tonne)	289.50-290.00	299.00-299.50	133925
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1103.0-1104.0	1123.0-1123.5	432225
Tin ($/tonne)	5785.0-5790.0	5845.0-5850.0	10630
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1198.0-1199.5	1219.5-1220.0	547650
Nickel ($/tonne)	5790.0-5795.0	5855.0-5860.0	54407

MONEY MARKETS

Exchange index compared with 1985 was up at 77.5 (day's range 76.8-77.5).

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for Feb 4	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	2.6664-2.6979	2.6930-2.6979	⅜-½ds	1⅛-1⅜ds
Brussels	48.92-49.52	49.31-49.41	7-11ds	27-34ds
Copenhagen	*9.1810-9.2680*	*9.1810-9.2030*	*6½-8½ds*	*14¼-15¼ds*
Dublin	0.9820-0.9898	0.9823-0.9898	52-76ds	162-211ds
Frankfurt	2.3664-2.3936	2.3840-2.3872	¼-½ds	1⅛-1¼ds
Lisbon	214.62-217.37	216.23-216.68	120-129ds	391-417ds
Madrid	168.07-170.40	169.09-169.94	91-98ds	300-312ds
Milan	2204.50-2225.30	2216.50-2225.30	7-10ds	27-30ds
Montreal	1.8249-1.8311	1.8266-1.8287	0.12-0.05pr	0.13-0.09pr
New York	1.4390-1.4450	1.4440-1.4450	0.37-0.36pr	1.05-1.03pr
Oslo	10.0580-10.1430	10.1200-10.1430	1⅜-3⅛ds	7⅛-10ds
Paris	8.0150-8.1110	8.0790-8.1000	3¾-4⅜ds	12¼-13¼ds
Stockholm	10.7640-10.8340	10.8110-10.8340	2¼-4¼ds	9¼-12¼ds
Tokyo	*179.11-180.23*	*179.95-180.23*	½-¼pr	1⅛-1¼pr
Vienna	16.66-16.89	16.80-16.85	1⅞-2⅞ds	6⅞-8⅝ds
Zurich	2.1894-2.2111	2.2071-2.2102	¼-¼ds	½-¼pr

Source: Extel *Premium - pr. Discount - ds.*

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.4406-1.4431
Australia dollar	2.1238-2.1269
Bahrain dinar	0.5365-0.5485
Brazil cruzeiro *	23904.1-23935.9
Cyprus pound	0.697-0.707
Finland marka	8.162-8.278
Greece drachma	314.0-321.0
Hong Kong dollar	11.1550-11.1565
India rupee	41.96-42.92
Kuwait dinar KD	0.439-0.449
Malaysia ringgit	3.7930-3.8001
Mexico peso	4.38-4.48
New Zealand dollar	2.8009-2.8084
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.3295-5.4555
Singapore dollar	2.3791-2.3823
S Africa rand (fin)	6.75-6.87
S Africa rand (com)	4.4980-4.5084
U A E dirham	5.2205-5.3445

*Barclays Bank GTS * Lloyds Bank*

DOLLAR SPOT RATES

Australia	1.4723-1.4734
Austria	11.67-11.69
Belgium (Com)	34.24-34.28
Canada	1.2650-1.2655
Denmark	6.43-6.44
France	5.6050-5.6150
Germany	1.6590-1.6600
Hong Kong	7.7335-7.7345
Ireland	1.46-1.47
Italy	1534.0-1539.0
Japan	124.62-124.72
Malaysia	2.6295-2.6325
Netherlands	1.8650-1.8670
Norway	7.0150-7.0250
Portugal	150.35-150.55
Singapore	1.6493-1.6503
Spain	117.50-118.00
Sweden	7.5350-7.5450
Switzerland	1.5330-1.5340

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 6 Finance Hse 7½
Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 6¼ Low 5¾ Week fixed: 6¼
Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 5⅞ ; 3 mth 5⅞ . Sell: 2 mth 5⅞ : 3 mth: 5⅞ .

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	5⅞-5¹³⁄₁₆	5¹³⁄₁₆-5¾	5⅞-5¹³⁄₁₆	5¾-5¾	
Sterling Money Rates:	6¼-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6	5¹³⁄₁₆-5¹¹⁄₁₆	5¹³⁄₁₆-5¾
Interbank	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6	5¹³⁄₁₆-5¹¹⁄₁₆	5¹³⁄₁₆-5¾

Overnight: *open 6⅛, close 6 .*

Local Authority Deps:	6⅛	n/a	6⅛	5¾	5¾
Sterling CDs:	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6-5⅞	5¹³⁄₁₆-5¾	5¾-5⅝
Dollar CDs:	3.08-3.05	n/a	3.16-3.12	3.27-3.24	3.61-3.58
Building Society CDs:	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-5¹¹⁄₁₆	5¹³⁄₁₆-5¹¹⁄₁₆	5¾-5⅝

ECGD: Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance. Make-up day: Jan 29,1993 Agreed rates Feb 24, 1993 to Mar 23, 1993 Scheme I: 8.32%. Schemes II & III: 8.20%. Reference rate Jan 1, 1993 to Jan 29, 1993 Scheme IV & V: 7.0%.

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	3⅛-2⅞	3⅛-2⅞	3⅛-3⅛	3⅛-3⅛	3⅛-2⅞
Deutschemark	8⅛-8⅛	8⅛-8⅛	8⅛-8⅛	7⅛-7⅛	8⅛-7⅞
French Franc	12⅞-12⅞	12⅞-12⅞	12⅞-12⅞	12⅞-12⅞	16-12
Swiss Franc	6-5⅞	5⅞-5⅞	5⅞-5⅞	5⅞-5⅞	5⅞-4⅞
Yen:	3⅛-3⅛	3⅛-3⅛	3⅛-3⅛	3⅛-3⅛	4⅛-3⅛

GOLD AND PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $328.30-328.70 Close: $328.00-328.50 High: $328.35-328.85 Low: $327.00-327.50 Krugerrand: $327.50-329.50 (£226.25-227.75)
Sovereigns: Old $78.50-81.50 (£53.00-55.00) New $78.50-81.50 (£53.00-55.00)
Platinum: $358.50 (£249.50) **Silver:** $3.68 (£2.545) **Palladium:** $117.15 (£78.05)

هكذا من الأصل

صكذا من الاصل

Merchant banks prepare for thaw in acquisition ice age

The dearth of takeovers during the recession has left finance houses short of fees, but William Kay detects the first signs that spring is in the air



On board: Singer has brought in Timothy Lyons, left, and Jonathan Stolerman, structured finance experts

The last two years have been an ice age for merchant banking, particularly their front-line troops in the corporate finance departments. Some have seen so little activity that they have been metaphorically counting their fingers and toes each morning. Now, though, they must hope the big freeze is finally thawing out.

This year we have already had a brief contest for Evode, the adhesives group. A slightly improved but still unwanted offer by Wassall was promptly and crushingly topped by a £135 million clincher from Laporte. More controversially, Airtours has put up £211 million to buy Owners Abroad in the teeth of a planned share exchange between Owners and Thomas Cook.

While neither of these middling-sized deals has either the air of excitement or the fees of Sir James Goldsmith's unsuccessful attempt to buy BAT Industries for a mere £13 billion in 1989, they at least dangle the prospect of some relief from the arctic conditions of the past two years. The BAT battle formed part of a record £55 billion aggregate value of public takeover bids four years ago. By 1991, the recession had taken the figure to £10 billion, and last year's score was a mere £7.5 billion. A large proportion of even that meagre tally came from Tomkins' £935 million takeover of RHM, the milling and baking group.

As merchant banks can earn millions from one transaction, the dearth of such deals has had a severe impact on the sector. Elegant City lunch rooms have echoed to such questions as What are we here for? How far should we diversify, if at all? How aggressively should we risk our capital when clients quibble every penny of our fees?

The effect of all this has been to widen the gap between the large and small merchant banks. And the most obvious demonstration of that gap has been their different abilities to continue to employ so many people.

Philip Healey, editor of *Acquisitions Monthly*, estimates that 200 corporate financiers lost their jobs last year. Given that the top 20 banks account for the vast proportion of the business, that is grim. Many of the good bankers and brokers have stayed with or gravitated towards the big battalions. Only last month, Kleinwort Benson recruited two people from Baring Brothers for their growing securitisation team. But even a name as prestigious as Kleinwort's is not enough to prevent departures. Laurie Faulkner, until January 1 the head of equity sales, has jumped ship to run an out-of-town office for Fidelity, the American-owned fund management group.

One merchant bank that has found a way of recruiting big names without mortgaging the family silver is Singer & Friedlander, which failed last year to merge with Henry Ansbacher & Co. According to Hemmington Scott, publisher of the *Hambro Company Guide*, Singer has just 22 plc clients, placing it 17th by that measure. But it has been attracting some glittering names.

In 1991, Singer took a 51 per cent stake in Collins Stewart & Co, a newly formed stockbroker. The venture was based around four former partners of Simon & Coates, a broking firm bought by Chase Manhattan Bank in the run up to the Big Bang deregulation of the London stock market.

Last month, Collins Stewart snapped up Terry Smith and David Poutney, the banking analysts, from UBS Phillips & Drew. Mr Smith quit P&D in a row over his book, *Accounting for Growth*, and Mr Poutney followed. Before Christmas, Singer also beat several other contenders for an ex-Morgan Grenfell unit trust team headed by Tony Fraher and Simon Ballard. And last week, it formed another new operation, Singer & Friedlander Capital Markets, specifically to house Timothy Lyons and Jonathan Stolerman, a high-flying duo in the arcane world of structured finance. Lyons and Stolerman had previously been with Hoare Govett and Prudential-Bache.

So all these players have come to Singer from big securities houses. Yet Singer, whose shares are valued at less than £100 million, has put no money up front and insists it is not paying over-the-odds. Mr Fraher said: "I was on the board of Morgan Grenfell Asset Management. You have got to wonder why people would walk away from a situation like that and go to a small firm like Singer. The answer is that they have given us autonomy and a slice of the equity in our operation."

That makes it sound almost too simple. Mr Fraher claims the difference is that other employers saw the value of such an arrangement but wondered if it would work. Tony Solomons and John Hodson, respectively Singer's chairman and chief executive, did not ask too many questions and made a quick decision. "At our size," Mr Hodson admitted, "we will never be able to recruit the real stars into our normal structure. But the last thing these people want is to find themselves on another greasy pole. So they are willing to come at below-market salary rates in return for a share of the action and the chance to create their own business. And that suited us."

After four such deals, a pattern is emerging. Singer is gathering a mini-galaxy of these satellite operations, circling around and complementing its core operations of banking, corporate finance, fund management and property investment.

Mr Hodson said: "There is no requirement for the bank's capital to be used in respect of these ventures as they are essentially fee-earning. In this way we are expanding our portfolio of banking products on a high-quality basis without any initial goodwill payment."



Hodson: reached a quick decision

Other merchant banks have not so far followed suit. Hambros said it tended to promote from within rather than recruiting senior people from outside. Hill Samuel, part of TSB Group, said that as it was focusing on traditional merchant banking activities, it was not entering any new areas and was not actively recruiting.

A BZW spokeswoman said: "We do recruit from outside as the need is perceived, but I don't think we would give equity to recruits, as we are part of the Barclays group. The practice is to remunerate according to performance."

The obvious danger in the Singer strategy is that it may cause resentment to develop among existing executives who do not qualify for equity-related packages. Mr Hodson has clearly given this some thought. "If these specialists are successful everyone benefits," he argued, "and in any case they are not competing with the core operations. There is certainly a two-tier set-up, but what we want to avoid is a first-class/second-class type of division."

That, Mr Hodson hopes, will be side-stepped by applying judicious doses of explanation and persuasion to any doubters. This may be somewhat easier to do in the present icy climate. When the thaw really does set in around the merchant banks, the stars will presumably start clocking up more than useful profits. That will be the real test of the pure wage-earners' loyalty.

What the stock market really needs now is for Lord Hanson to embark on that career-crowning megadeal he has been teasing us with for so long. That will set pulses racing — and fees flowing.

TEMPUS

Only a superficial cut

EVERYONE knew the Bundesbank's back was against the wall. What few people guessed was that it would notice the fact.

If the outcome of yesterday's Bundesbank meeting had been any different, Europe's financial markets would have been treated to an unsurpassed display of pyrotechnics which could well have destroyed the exchange-rate mechanism. Currency speculators would have forced the Danish krone into a devaluation and then rounded ferociously on the French franc.

The quarter-point cut in the discount rate stopped those battle waggons in their tracks. The markets' surprise is best measured by the three pfennig rise in sterling, even though the pound is hardly a direct benificiary. The bounce was mainly caused as dealers raced to cover short positions and crystallise profits. The dramatic turnaround of the the FT-SE 100 index into an eight-point fall by the close was also induced by shock, but it was also a well-overdue correction in what is becoming a gravity defying bull market.

The underlying question is whether the Bundesbank will come to the rescue of the krone, or any other beleaguered ERM currency, next time. There was little logic behind its action yesterday, since Denmark is no more a core component of the EC's economy than Ireland. More than 43 per cent of Denmark's exports go to countries which have devalued or quit the ERM, compared with 46.6 per cent of Ireland's.

The fundamental pressures faced by the ERM have not changed. Indeed, the quarter point has been conceded by the Bundesbank so grudgingly that speculators may decide that it will be the last cut for some time and be encouraged to redouble their efforts. The Bundesbank has bought nothing more than a brief breathing space.

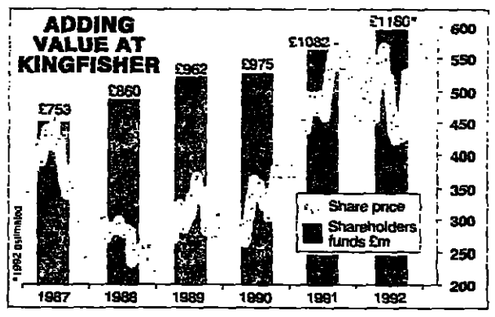
Kingfisher

MANY people had given up hope that Kingfisher would make a major acquisition, believing that its future expansion would be based on joint ventures. Yesterday's announcement that it was in discussions with Darty, the French electrical retailer, suggests Kingfisher may be on the verge of an interesting, large and long-awaited deal.

There is limited scope for expansion in electrical retailing in Britain so Kingfisher has to look abroad for growth. Darty is the leading player in the £10 billion French electrical retail market, with a 13 per cent share. Kingfisher hopes the company will be a springboard for further expansion into the rest of Europe — an ambition shared by Darty.

The missing part of the equation is price. Darty is capitalised at £1 billion, and has debt of £550 million. Kingfisher should have no problem financing a deal of this size. Its gearing is only 7 per cent, and it could tap the market for further funds.

But Geoff Mulcahy's timing is questionable. The two companies have been in contact for four years, yet it has chosen a moment when sterling is at its lowest point against the franc to make its move. Once the deal is sewn up, the franc could be devalued, which would reduce the value of Darty's operating profits. One hopes that Kingfisher's treasury department can be as adept at hedging currency risk as it is at managing the existing balance sheet.



Lasmo

THE City was well aware that Lasmo was assembling a package of disposals. The contents of that package show how desperate the group is to reduce its insupportable debts.

As expected, Lasmo has sold many of its peripheral North Sea assets, including its interests in the Bruce, Keith, Balmoral and Maureen fields. The package, however, also includes a 25 per cent interest in the Tree fields, which was previously regarded as one of the jewels in Lasmo's crown with tremendous potential.

One reason for the disposal of the Tree interests was undoubtedly price. It helped to raise the proceeds of the sale to £127 million, which will reduce Lasmo's gearing by 14 per cent to about 66 per cent, or net debt of £750 million. The other reason was the cost of developing the Tree fields — £100 million in the next three years.

Lasmo has some other peripheral holdings, but these are unlikely to raise more than another £150 million. To reduce debts further it has little choice but to reduce the final dividend — a cut of almost two-thirds to 2.3p will save £36 million. Joe Darby, new chief executive, faces a long grind to restore the balance sheet and needs all the cash he can muster.

Fisons

FISONS did not need to announce its alliance with Allergan to the Stock Exchange, but it is a sign of the struggling pharmaceutical group's desperation and sickly share price that it shouts good news from every available rooftop.

Linking with Allergan in the US opthalmic prescription market is sensible as it bolsters Fisons' marketing and distribution capacity. The alliance will boost the size of its sales force to 500 and boost penetration at pharmacies where it is under-represented. The only flaw is that Fisons does not have a product to put into this distribution system after Opticrom was withdrawn by the FDA.

Fisons' fortunes would be better served by getting Opticrom back on the shelves or selling horticulture and consumer health, which it has earmarked for disposal. Achieving either of these objectives would have a far greater impact on profits than ten of yesterday's deals.

Motor World

THE £28 million flotation of Motor World is another sign that the management buy-outs of the late eighties are coming home to roost. Motor World had little choice about floating: the venture capital firms that held its £7.5 million preference share issues wanted to realise their investment five years on.

Fortunately, it has managed to sell its shares on a reasonable p/e ratio of 13. Not all management buyouts will float so easily though, and the venture capital funds may decide to drag them on to the market to please their clients.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

From the horse's mouth

MIRROR Group Newspaper executives were yesterday scouring the neighbouring offices of *Sporting Life* for the official form guide to Montgomery, a runner in the 2.50 at Towcester. David Montgomery, MGN's new chief executive, was said to be less than happy with *The Daily Mirror*'s guide to the horse's form. The tabloid said yesterday: "Not one to trust and looks out of his depth here." But it seems there was no conspiracy on the *Mirror* racing desk. *Timeform*, the racing punter's bible, describes the horse as a poor chaser and a sketchy jumper, which is "often blinkered". True to form, the 12-year-old nag lost to Bit of a Clown yesterday. *Mirror* hacks drinking in a Holborn Circus pub, known affectionately as The Stab (in the back), shared a few further jokes at their new boss's expense: according to *Timeform*, Montgomery (the horse) is by Push On out of — wait for it — Mirror Back.

Hawkins jailed

ALLAN Hawkins, founder of Equiticorp, the collapsed investment group, and one of the fallen kings of the New Zealand share market boom, was yesterday jailed for six years. The businessman, whose empire once extended to control of Guinness Peat, the British merchant bank, was found guilty of seven fraud and conspiracy charges on transactions totalling NZ$520 million (£183 million) after a trial lasting 111 days, one of the longest and most expensive in New Zealand's history. Four other Equiticorp executives were also convicted of corruption and jailed. High Court Judge David Tompkins said Hawkins, 51, was the prime mover in efforts to divert funds from Equiticorp to the executives. Equiticorp, founded in 1984, was New Zealand's fifth largest company when it closed its last big deal the day the world's stock markets crashed in October, 1987.

Clapp stays

MORE shenanigans as J P Morgan tries to expand its European equity side. JPM expected that Joanna Clapp, head of research at Hoare Govett, would soon join its ranks as head of European research. Clapp, however, remains firmly at her desk in London, giving rise to rumours that JPM decided to retrench at the last minute. Tim Draper, of J P Morgan in Paris, says: "We made offers to several people and, at the end of the day, they're not always accepted."

THE Institute of Directors cannot be accused of failing to line its palladian walls with divine inspiration. Those attending a February 26 conference on competitive marketing for accountants and solicitors should reap rewards from any spiritual vibes left floating throughout the building by the speaker the previous evening, the Rt Rev Richard Harries, who, as Bishop of Oxford, will give the institute's annual Pall Mall lecture: "Is there a gospel for the rich?"

Impeded speech

DENG Xiaoping, the ageing Chinese leader, has ordered the presenters of an evening economic news programme on Chinese state television to slow their delivery. The patriarch, 88, who is hard of hearing, watches the half-hour programme on China Central Television (CCTV) nearly every day. But Deng, who adopted new economic development priorities for the country in early 1992, when he called on his compatriots to embrace markets, reportedly told the station: "The announcers' reading is too fast. If they could slow down a bit, the programme would be even more watchable." A member of CCTV's *Economic News Digest* staff says: "We are willing to accept all reasonable suggestions made by viewers." Deng's hearing has deteriorated to the point where one of his daughters, Deng Rong, must remain at his side to interpret during conversations.

MELINDA WITTSTOCK



BUSINESS LETTERS

Noise pollution tax on flights

From Mr Leo Cavendish

Sir, I have news for Sir Robert McCrindle. Adding 75,000 extra landing slots at Heathrow would not just arouse understandable opposition from "environmentalists" in the area, it would arouse justifiable wrath of thousands of people who live under the flight path and whose lives are already blighted by aircraft noise. These people are better called residents, taxpayers and voters.

It is pretty daft in the first place to site one of the world's busiest airports so that the flight path goes over one of the most densley populated parts of the country. It is immoral bordering on criminal callousness to then continually increase the number of flights, whether in the interests of competition or corporate profitability. As it is, a separation of 3 miles provides only ten seconds of pure silence between planes! And quieter jets are not quiet enough, especially at night.

A better solution would be to impose a noise pollution compensation tax on flights into Heathrow. Let us say £1 per head under the flight path per flight. That would soon encourage travellers to consider the merits of Gatwick and Stansted. And it could also provide a measure of compensation for the long-suffering residents of south west London and beyond.

Yours faithfully,
LEO CAVENDISH,
59 Palewell Park, SW14.

Barclays cache

From Mrs J. N. P. Watson

Sir, Mr Hamilton (Business Letters, *The Times*, January 29) wonders "what other gems may have lain undisturbed" in Barclays' safe custody facilities.

When I recently noticed a charge of £5.87 on my statement, I asked Barclays to send me the valuable documents, which I did not know I possessed.

What arrived? A 33-year-old National Savings Certificate for £1!

Yours faithfully
LAVINIA WATSON,
Pannett's Shipley,
Horsham,
West Sussex.

Taking care with charity cheques

From Lord Inchyra

Sir, Mr London (Business Letters, February 2) notes that difficulties may arise where a charity receives cheques bearing an appeal name which differs from its own. He suggests that the act should therefore be repealed.

While I can appreciate Mr London's concern, repeal is not the right answer. The difficulties he mentions can be remedied in other, less drastic ways.

The simplest solution is to ensure that the name on an account which is to receive charitable donations (or indeed any other kind of cheque payment) is the same as the payee name which a donor is asked to put on his cheque. Care must be taken, therefore, in deciding on an appeal name — perhaps more so than in the past — in order to minimise the risk of "mismatches" occurring, and donors must be told clearly what payee name should be used. In pre-printing cheques "account payee", all that banks are doing is to give their customers the protection against fraud or theft that the act now offers. In turn, it must be recognised that an "account payee" cheque does not have the attributes of transferability, and should not be treated as if it did.

Yours faithfully,
INCHYRA
(Director-General),
British Bankers' Association,
10 Lombard Street, EC3.

Consumer bears price burden of uncompetitive banana industry

From Mr Paul Weiser

Sir, So "Tempus" thinks (*The Times* February 3) that artificially-high banana prices for the UK consumer in order to "provide a welcome boost to the profits of firms such as Fyffes", is a good thing.

Never mind that the UK consumer has over this period paid at least 50 per cent more for bananas, and for inferior fruit, than, say the German consumer (and 100 per cent more than the US), and that Fyffes, an Irish-owned company, together with Geest and Jamaica Producers Ltd, enjoy a virtual monopoly of the UK banana business, to the detriment of the vast majority of the fruit and vegetable importers in the UK, including many quoted companies who are precluded from importing bananas due to the "catch 22" system of licences.

This asssociation was set up to fight this and to represent the interests of the dispossessed majority of UK fruit importers, and now also European importers, since HMG are one of the prime movers behind the community proposals, which go against free trade, and Gatt.

We do not blame Fyffes, Geest and Jamaica Producers for fighting to maintain and perpetuate the current situation, and indeed congratulate them on their magnificent PR campaign, but we submit that 40 years' protection is enough. It is time for competition, a free market and free choice, as there is in every other product and industry.

By the way, what "banana wars", and "damage done by cheap Latin-American imports"?

The UK is a protected market and there were no cheap bananas here! Also, if the Latin Americans are so evil, why have Geest invested heavily in Costa Rica, so that according to their own figures, nearly 40 per cent of their banana imports this year will be from Latin America?

To our members, this government pays lip service to free trade and level-field competition, and least to consumer interests.

Yours faithfully,
PAUL WEISER,
Executive Committee Member,
AABIEC
(Association for Access to Banana Imports into the European Community),
62/65 Link House,
New Covent Garden Market,
SW8.

Letters to *The Times* Business and Finance section can be sent by fax on 071-782 5112.

'Don't be the last to know.'



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Equities mark time

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began February 1. Dealings end February 12. §Comango day February 15. Settlement day February 22. §Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days. Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

Portfolio Plus

From your Portfolio Plus card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the daily prize money stated. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No	Company	Group	Gain or loss
1	Utd Newspapers	Newspapr.Pub	
2	Countryside	Building.Rds	
3	Southend Prop	Property	
4	Rugby Group	Building.Rds	
5	Marley	Building.Rds	
6	Baird (Wm)	Industrial	
7	Natl Express	Transport	
8	Croda	Chems.Plas	
9	BTP	Chems.Plas	
10	Clifford Fd 'A'	Foods	
11	Travis Perkins	Building.Rds	
12	fMI	Industrial	
13	CI Group	Industrial	
14	Vosper Thorny	Industrial	
15	Vardy (Reg)	Motors.Air	
16	MFI	Drapery.Strs	
17	Allied Irish	Banks.Disc	
18	Midlands Elec	Electricity	
19	UK Land	Property	
20	Bodycote	Industrial	
21	Dowding Mills	Electrical	
22	Perry Gp	Motors.Air	
23	GWR Gp	Leisure	
24	Boxmoor Intl	Industrial	
25	Spirax	Industrial	
26	Laird	Industrial	
27	Laporte	Chems.Plas	
28	Microfilm Rep	Electrical	
29	Cook (Wm)	Industrial	
30	Rolfe & Nolan	Business Serv	
31	Dencora	Property	
32	Brit Data Mgt	Business Serv	
33	Euromoney Pb	Newspapr.Pub	
34	TI	Industrial	
35	Shell	Oils. Gas	
36	Yorkshire W	Water	
37	London Elect	Electricity	
38	East Midlands	Electricity	
39	Blick	Electrical	
40	Halma	Industrial	

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Please take into account any minus signs

£1,000 MATCH THE SHARES

If you have ticked off your eighth share in our Match The Shares game today, claim your prize by telephoning 0254 53272 between 10.00am and 3.30pm (see the *Sunday Times* for full details)

The winner of yesterday's Portfolio Plus prize of £2,000 was Mr I Livingstone of Wrexham, Clwyd.

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

1992/93 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
399	245	Abbey Nt	377	- 2	10.5	3.7	13.0
205	154	Allied Irish	190	+ 3	...	5.7	12.1
197½	106	Ann Nwr 'Z'	139	- 2	...	6.5	...
3667½	1930	Bankamerica	3667½	+125	...	...	...
205	141	Bk of Ireland	199	+ 1	...	6.0	31.9
345	320	Bk Lesnni UK	325	...	...	16.0	7.5
136	97	Bank Scotland	128	- 2	4.3	4.5	20.3
464	274	Barclays	448	-14	21.1	6.3	...
6	1½	Benchmark	3	+ ½	...	...	...
204	28	Brown Shipley	31	- 4	...	...	...
21	10	Carlisle	19½	...	...	...	...
440	265	Cater Allen	430	...	26.0	7.6	...
102	61	Cattles	102	+ 1	3.8	5.0	14.9
2156½	912	Chase Manh	2156½	+56½	...	...	...
1800	537	Citicorp	1800 †	...	...	...	...
350	205	Close Bros	280	+ 2	9.5	4.4	12.9
£108	8667	Commerzbk	£108	...	...	3.7	...
£281	£214	Deutsche Bk	£275	-150	...	2.3	...
92	13	First Nat Fin	80	...	...	...	...
1104	693	Fuji Bank Y	975	-30	...	0.5	35.3
421	230	Gerrard Nat	420	...	21.0	6.7	...
584	236	HSBC	576	- 1	...	3.4	23.7
577	313	HSBC HK	555	- ½	...	3.6	22.8
298	202	Hambros	298	+ 7	13.8	6.2	13.2
355	308	Joseph (L)	355	...	13.8	8.0	...
117	54	King Shaxson	117	...	5.0	5.7	...
364	212	Kleinwort Ben	364	+ 2	16.0	5.9	31.9
573	346	Lloyds	548	-12	16.7	4.1	18.6
77	49	Lon Scot Bk	76 †	+ 2	3.0	5.2	...
350	258	Nat Asst Bk	354	- 2	...	5.7	12.7
485	251	Nat West	460	-21	17.5	5.1	63.5
784	418	Provident	784	+41	25.0	4.3	17.9
43	23	Rea Bros	43	...	0.5	1.5	...
251	172	Rtl Bk Scot	239	...	10.0	5.9	...
1485	1043	Schroders	1485	...	18.0	1.6	17.3
672	364	Stand Chart	643	- 4	20.0	4.1	16.6
179	115	TSB	169	- 8	6.4	5.1	...
300	38	Union Discc	108	- 1	13.5	...	...
615	402	Whrfdng SC	615	+ 5	16.0	3.9	16.2
215	137	do 6% 'A'	213	...	...	3.8	...
6656½	3087	Wells Fargo	6581½	-75	...	1.6	...
183	99	Westpac	141	...	...	5.7	...
253	188	Wisenus	198	...	9.3	6.4	7.5

BREWERIES

1992/93 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
712	526	Allied-Lyons	590	+ 5	20.0	4.5	13.7
666	472	Bass	598	- 6	18.9	4.2	13.0
205	146	Boddington	198	+ 3	6.6	4.6	13.5
400	243	Bulmer (HP)	364	...	9.0	3.3	16.8
159	111	Burntwood Bw	152	...	4.4	3.9	11.1
291	194	Dewhirst (JA)	275	...	7.8	3.8	...
107	68	Eldridge P 'A'	91	- 1	...	4.8	24.1
94½	47	Fosters Brewing	82	...	...	2.4	...
540	340	Fuller Sm 'A'	530	...	23.2	5.6	14.7
518	360	Grand Met	498	+10	13.3	3.6	14.8
424½	283	Greenalls Grp	408	- 1	11.7	3.8	13.5
530	455	Greene King	527	...	13.0	3.3	13.7
644	450	Guinness	629	+ 4	10.8	3.0	13.7
345	245	Hardy Hanso	277	...	7.9	3.8	15.4
145	113	Hawthorn	113	...	2.4	3.0	...
105	78	do 'A' LVs	78	...	...	3.2	10.8
1500	1101	Highland Dist	1500	...	60.0	4.1	17.4
48	21	Hoskins Brew	42	...	...	...	30.2
335	250	Invergordn Dist	272	+13	6.5	3.2	15.3
220	151	Macallan-Glen	169	...	0.7	0.6	34.1
360	260	Maclay Mann 'A'	318	...	8.8	2.5	15.4
720	515	Mansfield	681	...	13.6	2.7	14.6
269	166	Marston Thmp	236	...	4.9	2.8	13.8
477	394	Matthew Clark	424	+ 1	15.7	5.0	12.7
351	195	Mcwilliam W	299	...	...	2.8	21.6
497	329	Morland	448	...	...	2.4	19.2
10½	5½	Paramount	8½	...	...	...	21.1
1030	665	SA Breweries	863	+13	...	3.1	...
492	380	Scot & Newc	437	+ 3	18.1	4.9	11.8
202	145	Taunton Cider	185	+ 2	...	3.4	17.3
241	148	Vaux Group	235	+ 3	9.3	5.3	16.2
249	165	Wetherspoon JD	247	...	...	2.6	20.0
499	347	Whitbread 'A'	467	...	16.9	4.8	13.1
1430	1090	do 'B'	1400	...	16.9	2.4	31.8
660	510	Wolverhampton D	597	...	14.4	2.6	19.9
...	453	Young 'A'	513	...	14.5	3.8	22.4

BUILDING, ROADS

1992/93 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
95	60	Abbey	95	+ 1	...	1.4	34.3
26	9	Albrightson	15	+ 1	...	...	...
128	54	Allen	100	+ 1	...	6.7	10.8
182	53	Amec	85	+ 8	10.2	...	7.8
37	2½	Anglia Sec	8	...	...	...	...
192	85	Ashtead	177	...	4.1	3.1	23.8
151	100	Arwoods	133	...	5.0	5.0	19.2
221	123	BPB Ind	219	+ 3	11.2	...	9.3
101	70	Bespierge Brk	79	...	3.3	5.3	26.5
31	15	Bailey (Geo) Con	31	+ 2	0.5	2.4	...
118	68	Barratt	68	+ 3	1.2	1.7	17.8
130	34	Barratt Dev	128	- 1	2.0	2.1	14.3
380	195	Bellway	380	+20	11.5	4.0	21.0
30	14	Bellwinch	27	...	...	...	...
395	18½	Berkeley Gp	350	...	5.0	1.9	23.2
800	45	Bett Bros	45	...	...	...	1.8
89	27	Blockleys	39	...	3.3	...	38.8
284½	151	Blue Circle	226	- 5	11.2	5.0	22.6
245	149½	Boot (Henry)	245	...	...	2.9	13.4
108	62	Bredero PLC	103	...	4.6	6.0	19.8
152	86	Br Dredging	91	...	7.4	10.8	11.8
118	62	Brit Fittings	96	...	5.3	...	...
119	65	Bryant	115	+ 2	4.8	5.7	22.3
80	38	CALA	60	...	2.3	5.1	...
249	167	CRH	234	+ 1	...	3.9	12.5
14	4	Calebyread Rby	4	...	...	...	...
82	18½	Costain	34	...	4.7	...	...
143	91	Countryside	125	+ 7	4.1	4.5	32.3
251	173	Cowie	239	+ 1	10.0	...	...
573	346	Cranshaw Jn	548	-12	16.7	4.1	18.6
77	49	Crest Nicholson	76 †	+ 2	3.0	5.2	...
39	23	Crest Nicholson	37	+ 1	0.0	...	...
58	14	Costain	36	+ 1	...	...	...
6	½	Dunsan A	3	...	...	...	...
65	12	Edmond Hdgs	30	+ 1	1.8	...	8.2
211	132	Egerton	181	...	...	4.9	14.9
54	23	Ellis	35	...	2.0	...	...
210	130	Eve Groups	200	...	4.8	6.2	17.0
88	25	Everd Burdon	47	+ 1	3.6	...	25.3
19	3	Explosive	5	...	...	...	...
135	68	Freeman Gps	68	...	...	...	...
70	49	Galliford	68	...	4.3	11.9	19.3
98	75	Gibbs & Dandy	78	...	...	...	...
925	578	Gleeson (M)	704	- 2	12.7	2.4	10.4
114	67	Hendon-Sisson	95	...	3.1	4.3	20.2
61	38	Howeson	38	...	2.6	...	37.3
34	15	Hsy & Crofts	19	...	...	...	...
208	128	Heywd Wtn	205	+ 2	12.5	6.1	18.8
106	29	Higgs & Hill	62	- 3	9.0	...	9.5
39	23	How Gp	31	...	2.5	...	10.7
80	23	Howard Hdgs	19	...	0.3	3.5	...
80	46	Hunnet Johnsten	48	...	6.0	...	...
43	14½	Jarvis	19½	...	0.5	...	...
240	109	Lalag (J)	214	+ 6	9.0	5.6	11.1
35	3½	Lilley	7 †	...	2.0	...	2.6
122	77	La Clydesdale	78 †	...	4.5	7.7	29.4
26	4½	Lovell (Y)	15	...	...	...	6.8
295	180	Manders	227	+ 1	7.0	3.4	14.3
148	57	Marley	105	+ 6	4.2	5.3	27.0
97	47	Marshalls	95	+ 1	...	10.3	21.7
195	101	Maunders (J)	128	+ 5	4.9	5.2	11.7
219	78	Mcalpine (A)	136	+ 2	10.3	...	9.5

BUSINESS SERVICES

1992/93 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
533	343	ADT	488	- 2	...	...	...
248	193	Adam & Harvey	223	+ 5	11.0	6.6	3.5
127	53	Air London	73	...	...	6.4	9.0
63	34	African Lakes	37	...	2.0	7.4	7.4
85	31	Auto Sec	37	...	4.9	4.8	11.1
209	80	BET Ord	103	- 2	...	8.4	15.1
100	41	BMB Res	75	...	4.9	8.7	8.8
318	208	BPP	315	- 3	6.9	2.9	17.8
285	178	Barlow Lyde	260	...	7.2	2.8	18.8
30½	13	Boustead	16	...	0.7	5.8	32.7
234	111	Brit Data Mgt	214	+ 3	...	2.5	17.8
14	9	Broadcastdata	12	...	...	...	...
101	58	Brooks Service	98	...	4.0	4.1	11.5
143	72	CRT Gp	87	...	2.4	3.7	9.9
442	262	Capita Group	442	+ 8	5.4	1.6	25.4
36	19	Castlet Plc	34½	...	0.5	1.9	13.1
270	25½	Chiltern Capital	270	+ 2½	...	...	...
36	22	Charlotte	28	...	...	...	...
260	180	Chubb Sec	258	...	...	1.4	28.5
43	16	Clarence	25	...	...	...	...
31	9	Corp Services	9½	...	...	...	...
129	48	Dart	89	...	3.3	6.4	7.8
216	145	Davis Service	204	+ 1	7.9	5.2	15.5
115	85	EW Fact	100	...	...	5.7	7.4
57	8	Gardiner	13½	...	1.3	12.8	4.2
48	21	Gardiner (DC)	29	...	...	...	...
246	163	Hays	240	+ 2	4.8	2.6	23.6
251	167½	Hogg Robinson	217	+ 2	6.3	3.9	16.3
143½	42	Holmes Protecto	65	...	...	...	...
147	98	Hunch Whamp	147	+ 1	...	...	15.8
£110	6837	ISS B DKr	£110	+150	...	1.0	15.6
585	375	Inchcape	576	+ ½	12.5	2.9	24.5
768	561	Johnson Clean	767	...	25.7	4.5	16.0
18½	2½	Lep	10½	...	...	...	...
244	168	Mitie Gp	232	- 6	2.7	1.6	19.1
1125	682	Manpower	1125	+221	...	...	...
44	32	Michael Page	43	...	1.8	5.6	12.0
290	88	Persona	290	...	...	1.7	68.3
5½	2	Prime Response	5½	...	...	...	...
398	68	Proudfoot Alex	116	...	19.5	22.4	2.5
453	355	RCO	422	...	12.8	4.5	14.1
183	117	REA	118	...	4.0	4.5	...
81	48	Reed Executive	65	- 2	...	...	...
165	117	Reliance Secs	144	+ 1	...	4.2	14.5
13	4	Rentokil	13	...	...	...	...
257	134	Rentokil	214	- 5	1.6	1.1	31.4
345	180	Rolfe & Nolan	345	+ 3	6.2	3.4	16.4
389	234	Salvesen(Chr)	389	+ 4	7.0	2.4	17.3
63	25	Scott Pickford	31	...	...	3.4	8.5
206	98	Securiguard	201	+ 1	9.4	6.4	...
12	1½	Select Appt	5	...	...	...	...
768	555	Serco Gp	760	...	11.9	2.1	24.4
283	132	Shared Comp	254	...	...	3.1	8.8
157	82½	Stanley	123	...	3.0	3.3	14.9
360	220	Warner Howard	345	...	3.9	2.3	19.5
81	41½	Welpac	42½	- ½	0.6	1.9	...
21½	7½	Wills Gp	21½	+ ½	0.1	0.6	27.5

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

1992/93 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
246	152	Allied Colloids	240	+ 1	3.9	2.2	19.1
699	413	Amersham	689	+ 4	12.5	2.4	25.5
31½	9	Anglo Ind	9½	...	0.8	...	...
9082½	7262	BASF DM	9025	-62½	...	4.7	...
260	201	BTP	255	+ 6	8.8	4.6	18.6
£113½	9050	Bayer DM50	£111½	-212½	...	5.1	...
248	126	Biogen	146	...	9.5	8.7	10.5
158	115	Brent Chems	139	...	7.3	6.5	70.9
530	418	Br Bio-Tech	522	- 3	...	...	...
95	13	Cabrd Gp	29½	...	2.5	13.5	6.4
179	112	Canning (W)	148	+ 3	7.2	6.6	11.9
616	371	Courtaulds	572	+ 3	13.0	3.6	15.5
250	142	Croda	250	+ 5	7.5	4.0	19.0
211	152	Ellis & Everard	193 †	+ 4	7.0	4.9	17.6
18½	7	Euro Colour	16	...	0.6	5.4	...
135	43	Evode	134	+ 1	3.5	3.6	...
281	171	Halstead (J)	281	...	...	2.8	15.0
227	158	Hickson	222	+ 8	...	4.7	14.1
£108½	7537½	Hoechst	£108	-50	...	7.3	...
1410	975	ICI	1118	-16	55.0	6.6	27.0
660	434	Laporte	663	+ 4	18.9	3.9	17.6
328	138	Leigh	218	+ 8	7.8	4.8	17.8
280	11	MTM	14½	+ 1	1.8	...	2.9
1600	1100	Norsk Hydro	1600	+52	...	...	21
400	360	Paterson Zoch	400	...	11.4	3.8	17.3
395	355	do 'A'	371	...	11.4	4.1	16.0
301	211	Plysu	294	...	6.0	2.7	19.8
306	130	Pursuit	306	+ 8	...	2.1	21.3
12	4½	Sandiffe Speak	12	+ ½	...	...	...
475	329	Wardle Storeys	459	...	16.0	4.6	18.4
430	270	Wrenthmre P	430	...	16.3	5.1	18.9
399	253	Yorks Chem	399	+ 2	...	2.4	20.8
276	214	Yule Catto	276	...	5.4	2.6	16.8

DRAPERY, STORES

1992/93 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
382	63	Alexon	77	- 6	...	5.2	4.2
109	23	Amber Day	45	...	3.1	9.2	12.3
306	190	Argos Plc	276	- 5	6.4	3.1	19.2
99	57	Ashley (Laura)	80	...	0.1	0.2	...
305	180	Aspreys	298	...	...	2.3	24.2
81	31	Austin Reed	78	...	6.0	7.7	57.6
159	112	Beattie (J) 'A'	150	...	5.7	3.8	14.3
144	74	Benetton	108	...	3.6	4.8	60.9
266	86	Bentorware	265	+ 8	...	0.6	36.2
114	62	Blacks Leis	72	...	3.3	...	5.6
371	170	Body Shop	340	- 2	1.6	1.5	16.2
13½	3	Brown & Jackson	12½	...	...	...	...
359	260	Brown (N)	359	+ 4	6.0	2.2	22.2
80½	58	Burton	72 †	...	...	3.8	...
328	126	Cantors	138	...	...	2.6	18.3
358	245	Church	305	...	12.5	5.5	25.1
131	58	Clinton Cards	113	+ 3	3.7	4.4	...
231	151	Coats Viyella	225½	- ½	7.0	4.1	25.8
163	77	Colourvision	89 †	...	...	...	15.0
399	300	Courts Furnish	399 †	+ 2	5.0	1.7	20.0
252	100	Crown Eyes	115	...	...	7.0	5.3
111	65	Daisy Farm Intl	96	+ 3	...	...	15.5
359	227½	Dewhirst (JJ)	337	...	8.0	2.3	16.5
286	179	Dixons Grp	284	+ 3	9.0	3.2	16.1
495	358	Dunelm	475	...	7.7	1.7	13.0
33	13	ERA Gp	21	...	...	...	9.7
780	480	Elys (Wimbldn)	685	...	16.0	4.4	10.8
97	36½	Essex Farm	94	...	...	3.9	18.8
298	198	Exam	215	...	6.6	4.1	19.0
519	340	Fine Art Dev	515	+ 5	11.0	2.8	19.8
80	26	Fred Earth Tiles	45	...	4.0	...	32.9
500	438	Forminster	498	...	12.5	3.4	10.4
30	5	French Conn	27	...	...	...	...
21	21	Gabbitas	25	+ 4	...	10.7	5.0
68	39	Gent SR	68	...	2.0	5.6	14.1
40	18	Goodman Gp	40	+ 2	...	...	...
2525	1800	GUS	2525	+50	40.0	2.1	20.0
1725	1319	do 'A'	1644	+30	40.0	3.3	13.0
75	30	Hampden Grps	39	+ 1	...	6.8	14.1
283	123	Harrisons	256	...	4.8	3.5	15.3
25	16½	Heiene Plc	25	...	2.0	11.4	10.3
40	18	Hermitage	30	...	...	...	...
58	25	Honeycombe	40	...	...	3.3	6.7
150	78	Hse of Lenuse	145	...	10.3	9.6	21.7
198	40	Jacques Vert	64 †	...	2.0	...	...
498	414	Kingfisher	538	+20	13.0	3.2	16.2
98	54½	Leslie Wise Gp	68	...	3.0	4.4	19.1
675	405	Liberty	663	-12	7.2	1.4	45.1
373	162	Lloyds Chem	350	+ 3	5.5	2.5	11.5
152	40½	MFI	140 †	+ 3	...	3.6	18.7
348	268	Marks Spencer	338	+ 5	...	2.4	20.0
474	310	Mercies (John)	466	...	10.0	2.9	16.8
140	110	Moss Bros	137	- 2	5.0	4.9	26.4
155½	57	Next	143½	...	0.7	0.7	28.3
85	15	Oliver (G)	20	...	1.0	...	...
222	107	Oriflame Intl	215	...	...	5.6	18.0
49	29	Pentos	51	...	2.7	7.2	8.0
3	3	Pipe Groups	8	...	...	...	0.5
368	193	QS Hldgs	337	...	2.6	1.9	23.8
227	7	Ratners Group	167	...	2.9	19.6	...
34½	10	Rhiley Grps	31	...	...	...	...
189	110	Sherwood Gp	160	...	...	1.9	15.4
113	54	Sears	103	- 1	...	4.5	28.3
523	357	Smith WH 'A'	503	+16	13.4	4.2	14.9
29	17	Sportslinepro	17½	...	...	...	...
219	85	Stonehouse	202½	- 2½	5.0	3.3	...
256	153	T & S Stores	191	- 1	5.5	3.8	12.4
95	37	Tie Rack	93	...	0.5	0.5	...
190	132	Time Products	189	...	5.2	2.8	18.5
86	47	Usher (Frankie)	80	...	...	8.3	7.8
38	23	Viyu	28	...	...	...	77.3
68	28	Wensaum	57	...	...	...	6.6
104	57	Wickes	98	+ 5	...	...	...
70	28	Wld of Leathers	59	...	...	...	65.9
205	102½	Wyevale	162	...	...	3.1	18.0
7	2½	Xtravision	3½	...	...	...	2.7

ELECTRICALS

1992/93 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
180	45	AB Elec	60	...	...	5.2	4.2
197	138	ACT Group	180	+ 5	4.5	3.3	17.7
198	75	Accia	213	+ 5	...	3.2	19.5
116	6	Acorn Comps	116	+29	...	...	...
415	298	Admiral	415	...	4.8	1.5	18.8
183	94	Alba	176	...	4.7	4.5	15.1
2	2	Alphameric	2½	...	...	...	...
44	19	Amstrad	24	- 1	0.4	2.2	...
141	83	Apo Hldgs	128	...	...	...	...
22	12	Arlec	17	...	...	...	...
292	202	Arnec	287	...	9.2	4.6	14.2
30	1½	Bennett & Fount	5½	...	...	...	...
374	207	BICC	371	- 2	19.2	6.9	21.8
385	314	Bilsis	360	+ 7	9.2	2.2	21.6
1400	1150	Borland-e	1400	...	...	...	...
290	208	Brentnrope	285	+ 1	6.0	2.8	19.5
439½	305	BT	433	+ 2	14.4	4.5	15.4
335½	212	BT New	318	+ 2	14.4	4.5	15.4
5	2	Bulgin (AR) 'A'	2½	...	0.1	2.8	...
129	80	Burnfield	125	...	...	6.0	18.4
239	160	CML Micro-	208	- 2	13.2	7.5	22.0
13	4½	Chloride	13	+ ½	...	...	...
305	205	Cmbl Scient	300	...	...	2.4	16.5
29	9	Cossor People	25	...	5.4	...	17.0
1	1	Cosmocrake	1	...	...	...	...
160	60½	Cray Elect	130	+ 2	...	0.4	12.3
385	331	Delta	365	...	16.0	4.1	18.0
287	148	Dewsnaps Ele	287	...	...	2.8	...
600	375	Domino	600	+30	7.2	1.6	...
66	41	Dowding Mills	66	+ 3	2.8	5.2	21.0
1015	750	Druck	998	...	...	1.3	23.1
363	253	Electrocomponts	360	...	7.0	2.5	20.6
345	288	El Pass Pr	295	...	5.1	1.4	12.9
88	28	Electron House	68	+ 1	2.3	4.6	20.2
16	7	Emess	16	...	1.0	...	...
538	292	Exmoorm	538 †	+11	8.0	2.0	...
125	51	FKI	120	- 1	5.2	2.6	25.2
327	227	Farnell Elect	321	- 3	5.8	2.3	18.6
40	18	Feedback	35	...	...	...	...
13½	3½	Ferranti	13	...	...	...	...
128	38	First Tech	128	...	...	...	...
88	71	Forward Tech	88	...	...	3.8	10.6
10	10	Fuller (Frankie)	10	...	...	...	...
182	103	GEC	299	- 2	9.6	4.3	15.8
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صكذا من الاصل

THE TIMES FRIDAY FEBRUARY 5 1993



THEATRE page 26
Geraldine Alexander stars in a misguided revival in Leeds of a Eugene O'Neill play

ARTS

CINEMA page 27
Cyril Collard in his own Les Nuits fauves, a flashy offering at the Rotterdam Film Festival



GALLERIES: **Richard Cork** on a re-hang at the Tate that reveals the collection's potential



STEPHEN MARKESON

Four glass cubes shimmer, tease and confound the eye: an untitled work by the American artist Robert Morris, from the display of Minimalism that forms part of the new re-hang at the Tate Gallery

New moves towards a bigger, clearer picture

Flexing his well-polished bicep near the entrance to the Duveen sculpture hall, Rodin's *Age of Bronze* heralds the advent of the latest Tate re-hang. This arresting display of curatorial muscle has become an annual fixture under Nicholas Serota's directorship, and the transformation is evident at once. Instead of Richard Serra's dour, inert blocks punctuating the Duveen's echoing emptiness, Rodin has now been allowed to galvanise the gallery with restless vigour. Aided by loans from the Victoria and Albert Museum, his dynamism acts as a tonic.

Rodin's bronzes also offer a welcome antidote to the carved slackness of his marble *Kiss*, a ponderous old favourite exhumed from the storerooms. But even the *Kiss* looks less predictable when juxtaposed with another, far more troubled embrace in the Octagon beyond: Epstein's *Jacob and the Angel*. Supposedly wrestling, the limp Jacob is in fact submitting to the angel's sexually charged grip. And the intimacy of their struggle seems to have affected the four women in Matisse's surrounding sequence of *Back* bronzes, who all turn away from the male-bonding wrestlers as if in embarrassment.

By borrowing the Rodins, Serota shows how a collection's batteries can be re-charged with the help of other museums. But a great deal more could be done in the future. At the moment, the Tate only begins to acknowledge sculpture's existence in the late 19th century. The V&A owns the national collection of earlier British sculpture, and it always looks marooned and melancholy down in South Kensington. Better by far to integrate it with the pictures at the Tate.

The possibilities for extending the Tate's scope are immense, and they take on an extra pertinence now that the decision to split the collections has at last been announced. Once the present building is given over wholly to British art, a far more expansive presentation of its history becomes possible. And tantalising hints of this are given in the new re-hang.

Take Mary Beale, a hitherto neglected portraitist from the Restoration period. Although she spent most of her career producing copies of Lely's portraits, her fresh and spirited *Portrait of a Young Girl* shows what she might have achieved in a less male-dominated culture. More women painters are doubtless waiting to be discovered, and the Tate could also do more to honour foreign artists who worked in Britain. Why should Holbein and Van Dyck be confined to the National Gallery, when they produced their finest work in this country?

The question needs to be asked now that Canaletto, at long last, is displayed at Millbank. His panorama of the Old Horse Guards from St James's Park, lent by the Andrew Lloyd Webber Art Foundation, makes absolute sense in the context of 18th-century British cityscape painting. The meticulous sobriety with which Canaletto depicts the buildings is countered by the uninhibited liveliness of his figures and animals. A man with a colossal paunch pauses to gossip, while two dogs scrap and servants beat a gold carpet on the railings outside Downing Street. In the shadows near by, another figure casually urinates against a wall — a detail which Hogarth would have relished.

Canaletto's presence immeasurably enhances our understanding of British art during the years when he painted here. No foreign artist who worked in Britain and influenced home-grown painters should henceforth be excluded. After all, the Tate has for many years shown key works by the American-born Sargent and Whistler. Both men play prominent roles in a new display devoted to late Victorian and Edwardian portraits.

> 'Possibilities for extending the Tate's scope are immense'

Sargent's flashiness, staking all on quick-silver handling and maximised glamour, is far removed from Whistler's exquisite *Miss Cicely Alexander*. Part of her blanched, doleful appeal may come from Whistler's insistence on demanding more than 70 sittings. His obsessive need for control extended to designing the girl's muslin dress, hat and sash himself, but the outcome is paradoxically modest.

Scottish visitors might well complain that their native painters are meagrely represented at the Tate. English art predominates wherever you look, and the occasional inclusion of a Glaswegian such as Edward Atkinson Hornel serves only to reveal how many of his compatriots are missing. Now that Scotland has decided to create a gallery devoted to its own art, the Tate really must work out how Scottish practitioners might best be represented at Millbank.

In the proposed new gallery of modern art, British and foreign works should be intermingled. So I was intrigued to find a new emphasis, in the re-hang, on placing British pictures in an international context. The policy carries risks, of course. Placing Vanessa Bell or Duncan Grant in the same room as Derain and Matisse makes the Bloomsbury painters look tame. But William Ratcliffe's unfamiliar attempt to paint Hampstead Garden Suburb in a Fauvist range of red, purple and orange provides a crisp, refreshing surprise. As for Mark Gertler's *Merry-Go-Round*, this rasping carousel of leering, robot-like riders has a nightmarish attack which holds up well in a room otherwise dominated by Beckmann's icy *Carnival* and Picasso's frenzied *The Three Dancers*, half bacchic riot and half crucifixion.

Picasso himself is unevenly represented in the Tate's collection. His seminal contribution to Cubism peters out after 1909, leaving Braque alone to show how their discoveries deepened over the next half-dozen years. Now, however, Picasso's Cubist period is displayed with greater richness. Several canvases from the Berggruen collection, normally on long-term loan to the National Gallery, have been sent over here. The two finest, a savagely hatched, acid-yellow study for *Les Demoisselles d'Avignon* and the strangely scroll-like *Still Life on a Piano*, transform our understanding of a high point in Picasso's long career.

If the Berggruen collection is eventually given or bequeathed to the nation, a powerful case could be made for keeping his array of Picassos at Millbank rather than Trafalgar Square. At the Tate, they play a central part in the representation of 20th-century art, whereas at the National they look like a coda to the main collection. Once the proposed gallery of modern art becomes a reality, I hope the National will do everything to help the new building display the key images it needs.

By revealing more and more aspects of the Tate holdings with each successive re-hang, Serota's rotational programme proves just how urgent a priority the split should be. For each freshly hung room can only be achieved by banishing other, equally deserving works to the storeroom. Their disappearance is becoming increasingly painful, and mars the pleasure generated by the emergence of other hidden images.

At the moment, a limpid section is given over to the post-war achievements of Barbara Hepworth, rightly concentrating on carvings rather than bronzes. The entire Hepworth room will only be visible until the summer. Artists of Hepworth's stature should *always* be on view, and I urge the Tate's trustees to ensure that the present desperate space shortage is alleviated as soon as possible.

The two latest acquisitions on view, Christian Boltanski's death-haunted *The Reserve of the Swiss Dead* and Ian Hamilton Finlay's equally funereal *A Wartime Garden*, each takes up an immense amount of space. Even the sculpture in the Minimalist room, where Robert Morris's four beguiling glass cubes shimmer, tease and confound the eye, looks reasonable in size compared with the behemoths made by so many of today's artists. Contemporary installations often require far more space than work from the past, and until the new gallery is erected, we stand no chance at all of doing full justice to the art of our own time.

TELEVISION

Manners make a manager

The Brittas Empire
BBC 1

If you accept that the British character is most accurately captured in sitcoms — remember Harold Steptoe, Frank Spencer and Basil Fawlty — you will agree that Britain has a new hero. He works in a leisure centre, wears a double-breasted blazer and a shiny tie, and represents a curious amalgam of ancient and modern. His decency has a pre-war sparkle, but he is simultaneously a master-bureaucrat in the 1990s mould.

The Brittas Empire, as the title implies, is a sideways glance at the state of the nation, and Gordon Brittas is its voice of remarkable ordinariness. In last night's episode he rejected a large monetary gift from a rich American as somehow too tasteless. He may be a stickler for form-filling, but his values are unimpeachable.

The same cannot be said for his manner, which is similar to that of Sybil Fawlty, an earlier study in condescension. His Sybil-like, sycophantic "Yes", elongated beyond endurance, is the least irritating of a large collection of personal traits. Chris Barrie plays Brittas with a malevolent skill, and is especially adept at a flat Essex whine, delivered with maximum nasality. In quick succession, he makes Brittas goonish, smarmy and — perhaps his greatest trick — occasionally likable.

But *The Brittas Empire* is not merely a vaudevillian *tour de force* for Barrie. Its setting in a new town's leisure centre exploits the primary-coloured optimism of this wholesome new England. In this, of course, it is out of touch with reality even by sitcom standards, but *The Brittas Empire* makes a virtue of implausibility. Colin Handyman, for instance, was lined up to do some sponsored juggling. "Mr Brittas, you've got to help", he exclaims. "My balls are on fire!" Deservedly, given this awful line, Colin was the victim of this week's stunt, electrocution from a great height.

For all its jollity, the suspicion grows that *The Brittas Empire* is actually a covert satire on Britishness. Last night, Brittas's neurotic secretary foolishly came to work with a novel she had just finished writing. "Let's leave the novel-writing to the novellers, eh?" is Brittas's advice, "and concentrate on keeping a nice, tidy reception area." He is a thoroughly modern manager, after all.

ANDY LAVENDER

CRITIC'S CHOICE: GALLERIES

● **ROBERT DOISNEAU:** Though Doisneau has touched upon many artistic groups in Paris, being particularly friendly with some of the Surrealists, his own photographs are best known for their vividly realistic depiction of the life around him. But perhaps not finally so realistic after all: the world conjured up most resembles that of romantic French films.
Hayward Gallery, Royal Festival Hall, South Bank, SE1 (071-928 8800). Daily, 10am-10pm, until March 21.

● **THE ART OF WATER-COLOUR:** This is shaping up as the Year of the Watercolour, with the Royal Academy's spectacular show leading the way. People forget that the Royal Watercolour Society has been there almost as long as the Academy: it was in fact founded in 1804 by dissident RAs who felt their favoured medium was insufficiently regarded by the senior institution. In 1990 the society's collection of more than 800 watercolours was placed on long-term loan with the BM: this show picks a hundred of the most notable, from Clarkson Stanfield to Patrick Prockter.
British Museum, Great Russell Street, WC1 (071-636 1555). Mon-Sat, 10am-5pm, Sun, 2.30-6pm, until April 25.

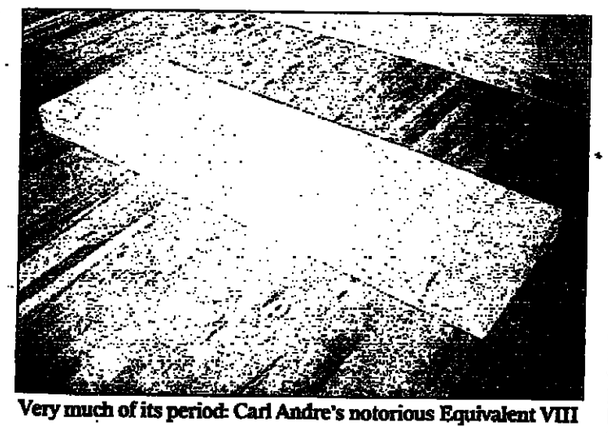
JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR

Minimal impact, maximum fuss

Among the many victims of the Tate's space crisis is Carl Andre's *Equivalent VIII*, better known to the British public simply as "the bricks". Since it became the collection's most notorious acquisition in 1976, this two-layered, low-level rectangle of firebricks has only been displayed intermittently. But now Andre's once-vilified sculpture has returned, in a new display of American Minimalism. And its exhumation is bound to trigger memories of the nationwide apoplexy caused by "the bricks" 17 years ago.

No other modern work has generated so many enraged column inches in Britain, or provoked so much verbal vituperation. After the *Daily Mirror* devoted its front page to a headline denunciation ("WHAT A LOAD OF RUBBISH"), *Equivalent VIII* became the automatic butt of everyone who thought that modern art was a con-trick.

Contempt centred on the lowliness of the materials, and the fact that Andre had simply stacked them rather than changing them in any way. Further suspicion was fanned by the knowledge that the firebricks in the Tate's sculpture were not even the originals. Andre first exhibited *Equivalent VIII*, along with the seven other brick sculptures in the series, at New York's Tibor de Nagy Gallery in 1966. Nothing was sold at the show, so he returned most of the bricks to the yard in order to get his money back.



Very much of its period: Carl Andre's notorious Equivalent VIII

Three years later, when burgeoning fame stimulated international demand for his work, he decided to reconstruct the eight sculptures. But the brickyard no longer existed, so Andre settled for yellowy-brown substitutes rather than the "bluish-white" originals. He was satisfied that they still remained faithful to the work he had made in 1966, but public opinion regarded the change of bricks as one more damning demonstration of Andre's supposed chicanery.

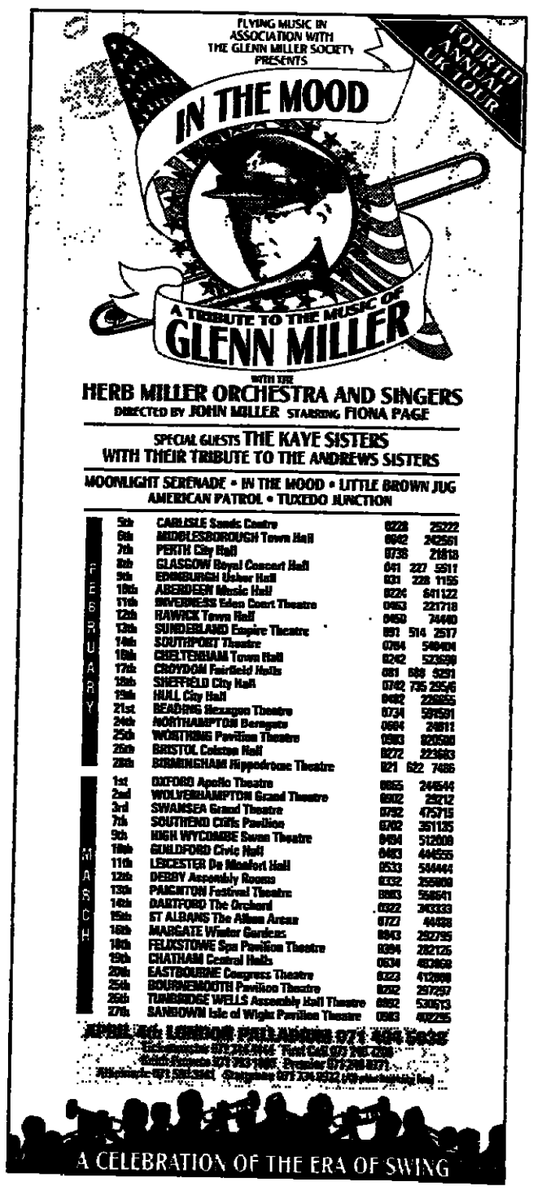
Now that they have reappeared, in a room filled with other, equally pared-down examples of minimal work by Sol LeWitt, Robert Morris, Don Judd and Larry Bell, "the bricks", pale in colour and neatly ordered, seem an unlikely candidate for infamy. But perhaps Andre's very refusal to pretend that *Equivalent VIII* was anything other than 120 ordinary firebricks inflamed the hostility still further.

The sculpture now looks strikingly of its period. Andre and his contemporaries were reacting against the elevated emotionalism of the previous generation. Jackson Pollock and other Abstract Expressionists had staked everything on splashily expansive gestures, raw feeling and heated improvisation. The Minimalists abhorred the older men's work, and aimed instead at purging their art of all rhetoric, accidental messiness and breast-beating heroism. They favoured simplicity, directness, lack of theatricality.

Abolishing the ambiguity of the Abstract Expressionists, they concentrated on forms as basic as cubes or rectangular slabs. The impersonal surfaces evoked an industrial world, and many of the sculptors began to have their work fabricated by industrial craftsmen. The emphasis started to shift to the idea behind the work. In Andre's "Equivalents" series, each of the variously shaped sculptures consisted of 120 bricks stacked in different combinations. Lying flat on the floor, they all flouted sculpture's traditional tendency to assert itself as a vertical mass.

Today, the once-execrated *Equivalent VIII* looks modest, unassuming, even discreet. But memories of the outrage created by "the bricks" remain vivid, and may prompt us to view them, against all the odds, with a certain nostalgic affection.

RICHARD CORK



WEEKEND EVENTS

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Karl Knight

LONDON

BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET First night of David Bintley's delightful comic ballet, *Hobson's Choice*
Sadler's Wells, Rosebery Avenue, EC1 (071-278 8916). Tonight, tomorrow, 7.30pm, mat tomorrow, 2.30pm.

STIFFELIO: Verdi's stirring melodrama of a Protestant clergyman and his adulterous wife is triumphantly staged *at Covent Garden. A strong cast features* Jose Carreras in the title role, supported by Catherine Malfitano, Gregory Yurisich, David Marwell Anderson and Gwynne Howell. Sir Edward Downes conducts.
Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, WC2 (071-240 1066). tomorrow, 7.30pm

PHILHARMONIA: Pierre Boulez conducts an 85th anniversary tribute to Elliot Carter, America's greatest living composer, and to the late Olivier Messiaen. The Philharmonia is joined by the Ensemble InterContemporain and a fine team of soloists for a programme that includes Messiaen's *Un vitrail et des oiseaux* and *Poèmes pour mi* (with soprano Maria Ewing), Carter's *Three Occasions* and his 1988 Oboe Concerto (with Laszlo Hardy), and Boulez's own *Derive 2*
Festival Hall, South Bank, SE1 (071-928 8800), Sun, 7.30pm.

BBC SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: Mark Wigglesworth conducts the British premiere of Louis Andriessen's *De Snelheid*, a work scored for three large ensembles, exploring the relationship between music and velocity. It is contrasted with Messiaen's *Turangalila*.
Festival Hall (as above), tonight, 7.30pm

BOB DYLAN: *Good As I Been To You*, his first acoustic album since 1965, offers new stylings of traditional folk songs. Good or bad, it's Dylan.
Hammersmith Apollo, Queen Caroline Street, W6 (081-741 4868), tomorrow, Mon, Tues, 8.45pm

STEREO MC'S: The dance band provides a heady mix of Sixties psychedelia, Seventies funk and Eighties rap.
Town and Country, 9-17 Highgate Road (071-284 0303), tonight, 7pm.

ROY AYERS: Good tunes, meaningful lyrics and an Afrocentric vibraphone sound earned the multi-talented vibes player much acclaim during the Seventies and early Eighties. His latest CD *Double Trouble* sees him using popular synths and drum programmes.
Blackheath Concert Halls, 23 Lee Road, SE3 (081-463 0100), Sun, 8pm.

REGIONAL

BIRMINGHAM: Gillian Hanna plays the title role in **Big Maggie**, John B. Keane's marvellous creation of a rural Irish matriarch.
Repertory Theatre, Centenary Square (021-236 4455). *Preview tonight*, 7.30pm; opens Mon, 7.30pm; then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Thurs (Feb 18, 25), 2.30pm, Sat (Feb 20), 3pm.

BRIGHTON: Barry Wordsworth, music director of the Royal Ballet, conducts the **Brighton Philharmonic Orchestra** in Leopold Stokowski's transcription of Bach's *Passacaglia and Fugue*, Stravinsky's Violin Concerto (with Israeli Hagai Shaham) and Tchaikovsky's Fifth Symphony. Free admittance to those under 18.
The Dome, 29 New Road (0273 674357), tomorrow, 7.30pm.

LIVERPOOL: The Hallé's dynamic new music director Kent Nagano conducts the **Royal Northern College of Music Symphony Orchestra** in Mahler's Third Symphony featuring mezzo-soprano Jane Irwin, the Ladies of the Hallé Choir and the Manchester Boys Choir.
Philharmonic Hall, Hope Street (051-709 3789), Sun, 7.30pm.

NORWICH: London's leading fringe company The Gate goes on tour with its excellent version of Lope de Vega's **Madness in Valencia**: lovers mad for love seek refuge in a lunatic asylum.
Norwich Arts Centre, St Benedict's Street (0603 660352), tonight, 8pm.

POOLE: Sian Edwards, getting in lots of practise before taking up her new post with English National Opera, makes her conducting debut with the **Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra** in an all-Tchaikovsky programme comprising the *1812 Overture*, fantasy overture *Romeo and Juliet*, Serenade for Strings and *The Nutcracker Suite*.
Wessex Hall, Poole Arts Centre, Kingland Road (0202 685222), tonight, 7.30pm

TELFORD: Eight dancers of the Birmingham Royal Ballet present **Springboard**, a colourful programme of British choreography specially selected for the small stage and designed to enlighten audiences unfamiliar with classical ballet.
Oakengates Theatre, Limes Walk (0952 619020). Tonight, tomorrow, 7.30pm, mat tomorrow, 2.30pm.

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ House full, returns only
◩ Some seats available
☐ Seats at all prices

☐ **ARTISTS AND ADMIRERS**: Ostrovsky's sharp, affectionate picture of a theatrical anthill in Russia circa 1880. Lovely performances by, among others, Sylvestra le Touzel and Philip Voss.
The Pit, Barbican Centre, Silk Street, EC2 (071-638 8891). Tonight, tomorrow, 7.15pm, mat tomorrow, 2pm. 150mins.

☐ **BARNUM**: Agreeable showbiz musical, with Paul Nicholas walking the high wire. Bouncy numbers by Cy Coleman and Michael Stewart.
Dominion, Tottenham Court Road, W1 (071-580 8845). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed and Sat, 3pm. 140mins.

■ **CAROUSEL**: Joanna Riding and Michael Hayden star in a triumphant revival of the Rodgers & Hammerstein fairground musical.
National (Lyttelton), South Bank, SE1 (071-928 2252). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed, Sat, 2.15pm. 180mins.

◩ **CYRANO DE BERGERAC**: Robert Lindsay looks right as the nasally challenged hero but the production is too bustling to give enough room to the full poignancy of his fate.
Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (071-930 8800). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed and Sat, 2.30pm. 180mins

☐ **HAY FEVER**: Very funny performances (not always where you expect) in Coward's excellent comedy.
Albery, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (071-867 1115). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats, Thurs, Sat, 3pm. 150mins.

◩ **AN IDEAL HUSBAND**: Anna Carteret, Hannah Gordon and Martin Shaw in Wilde's "insider dealing" melodrama. Some dated assumptions but stylishly done.
Globe, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (071-494 5065). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mats Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 4pm. 165mins.

◩ **IT RUNS IN THE FAMILY**: Larks in the hospital common room, matron outraged; doctors flummoxed. Ray Cooney farce with lots of laughs.
Playhouse, Northumberland Avenue, WC2 (071-839 4401). Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.30pm, mats Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 5.30pm. 135mins.

◩ **KING LEAR**: Solid, respectable performance by Tom Wilkinson in a low-powered staging by Max Stafford-Clark. With Saskia Reeves, Hugh Ross.
Royal Court, Sloane Square, SW1 (071-730 1745). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Sat, 2.30pm. 195mins.

☐ **KISS OF THE SPIDER WOMAN**: Tremendously glossy production of the Kander & Ebb musical. It coarsens the values of Manuel Puig's novel but Chita Rivera makes a striking vamp.
Shaftesbury, Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 (071-379 5399). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Wed, Sat, 3pm. 150mins.

☐ **LOST IN YONKERS**: Terrific performance by Rosemary Harris in a Neil Simon comedy more weighty than usual. Maureen Lipman gives good value as a loopy aunt.
Strand, Aldwych, WC2 (071-930 8800). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed, Sat, 2.30pm. 160mins.

◩ **MISERY**: Sharon Gless and Bill Paterson in ridiculous but chilling production of Stephen King's thriller.
Criterion, Piccadilly Circus, W1 (071-839 4488). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Wed, 3pm, Sat, 4pm. 150mins.

◩ **OUR SONG**: Peter O'Toole in Keith Waterhouse's play about a menopausal male's infatuation with a young woman. Neatly done though we only hear the man's point of view.
Apollo, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (071-494 5070). Mon-Fri, 8.15pm, Sat, 6pm and 8.45pm. 135mins.

■ **RICHARD III**: Ciaran Hinds in Sam Mendes's memorable RSC production.
Donmar Warehouse, Earlham Street, WC2 (071-867 1150). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Sat, 2pm. 195mins.

◩ **THE RISE AND FALL OF LITTLE VOICE**: Alison Steadman and Jane Horrocks in Jim Cartwright's play about a shy girl escaping her raucous mother. Ingenious but incredible.
Aldwych, Aldwych, WC2 (071-836 6404). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat, 4pm. 150mins.

■ **STAGES**: Haunting performance by Alan Bates as the washed-up artist in David Storey's elegy for lost times and places. Lindsay Anderson directs.
National (Cottesloe), South Bank, SE1 (071-928 2252). Tonight, tomorrow, 8pm, mat tomorrow, 4pm. 85mins.

☐ **TRAVELS WITH MY AUNT**: William Gaunt (replacing Simon Cadell), John Wells, Richard Kane, Christopher Gee play all 26 parts in Giles Havergal's marvellous adaptation of Graham Greene's novel.
Wyndham's, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (071-867 1116). Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.15pm, mats Wed, 3pm, Sat, 5pm. 140mins.

☐ **THE TWO GENTLEMEN OF VERONA**: David Thacker's winning revival, Thirties style, both comic and romantic, delightfully acted — not least by a reproachful mutt.
Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (071-638 8891). Tonight, tomorrow, 7.15pm, mat tomorrow, 2pm. 150mins.

LONG RUNNERS: ◩ **Blood Brothers**: Phoenix (071-867 1044) ◩ **Buddy**: Victoria Palace (071-834 1317) ◩ **Cats**: New London (071-405 0072) ... ☐ **The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)**: Arts Theatre (071-836 2132) ... ☐ **Dancing at Lughnasa**: Garrick (071-494 5085) ... ☐ **Don't Dress for Dinner**: Duchess (071-494 5070) ... ◩ **Five Guys Named Moe**: Lyric (071-494 5045) ... ■ **Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat**: Palladium (071-494 5037) ... ■ **Les Misérables**: Palace (071-434 0909) ... ■ **Miss Saigon**: Theatre Royal, Drury Lane (071-494 5400) ☐ **The Mousetrap**: St Martin's (071-836 1443) ... ■ **The Phantom of the Opera**: Her Majesty's (071-494 5400) ... ◩ **Starlight Express**: Apollo Victoria (071-828 8665) ... ◩ **The Woman in Black**: Fortune (071-836 2238).

Ticket information supplied by Society of West End Theatre

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

NEW RELEASES

◆ **DAMAGE** (18): MP Jeremy Irons pursues destructive affair with his own son's fiancée (Juliette Binoche). Riveting version of Josephine Hart's novel, coolly directed by Louis Malle.
Barbican (071-638 8891) **Chelsea** (071-351 3742/3743) **Curzon West End** (071-439 4805) **Empire** (071-497 9999) **Gate** (071-727 4043) **Odeon Kensington** (0426 914666) **Screen on the Hill** (071-435 3366) **Screen on Baker Street** (071-935 2772).

THE END OF THE GOLDEN WEATHER (PG): Twelve-year-old befriends a simpleton during one halcyon New Zealand summer. Kiwi classic, unevenly filmed by Ian Mune.
MGM Haymarket (071-839 1527) **MGM Tottenham Court Road** (071-636 6148).

FOLKS! (PG): Family problems drive Tom Selleck almost as crazy as his senile father. Botched comedy, with Don Ameche. Director, Ted Kotcheff.
Odeons: Kensington (0426 914666) **Mezzanine** (0426 915683).

◆ **HONEY, I BLEW UP THE KID** (U): Amiable, inoffensive sequel, with Rick Moranis as the accident-prone dad with a 100-feet-tall tot who heads for Las Vegas. Director, Randal Kleiser.
Camden Parkway (071-267 7034) **MGM Oxford Street** (071-636 0310) **Odeons: Kensington** (0426 914666) **West End** (0426 915574) **UCI Whiteleys** (071-792 3332).

THE PUBLIC EYE (15): Life, times and longings of a tabloid photographer in the Forties (Joe Pesci). Annoyingly artificial. With Barbara Hershey; writer-director, Howard Franklin.

MGM Fulham Road (071-370 2636) **Plaza** (071-497 9999) **UCI Whiteleys** (071-792 3332).

CURRENT

◆ **BRAM STOKER'S DRACULA** (18): Gary Oldman as the Transylvanian legend, preying on Victorian London. Visually audacious, but cold to the touch. Francis Coppola directs. With Keanu Reeves, Winona Ryder.
Barbican (071-638 8891) **Camden Plaza** (071-485 2443) **MGM Baker Street** (071-935 9772) **MGM Chelsea** (071-352 5096) **Notting Hill Coronet** (071-727 6705) **Odeons: Kensington** (0426 914666) **Leicester Square** (0426 915683) **Marble Arch** (0426 914501) **Screen on the Green** (071-226 3520) **UCI Whiteleys** (071-792 3332).

CHAPLIN (12): A skilled impersonation by Robert Downey Jr., but Richard Attenborough's bitty biographical epic never penetrates far inside the man or his career.
Lumière (071-836 0691) **MGM Chelsea** (071-352 5096) **Odeons: Kensington** (0426 914666) **Mezzanine** (0426 915683) **UCI Whiteleys** (071-792 3332)

◆ **A FEW GOOD MEN** (15): Cocky naval lawyer (Tom Cruise) defends marines accused of murder. Devilishly seductive courtroom drama starring Demi Moore, Jack Nicholson; director, Rob Reiner.
MGM Chelsea (071-352 5096) **MGM Oxford Street** (071-636 0310) **Odeons: Kensington** (0426 914666) **West End** (0426 915574) **UCI Whiteleys** (071-792 3332).

L.627 (15): The Paris police drugs squad's daily routine: stake-outs, violence, paperwork. Vividly filmed by Bertrand Tavernier, though too long for its material.
Renoir (071-837 8402).

◆ **RESERVOIR DOGS** (18): A jewel robbery goes haywire. Quirky tale of betrayal, loyalty and violence from bright talent Quentin Tarantino.
MGM Chelsea (071-352 5096) **MGM Haymarket** (071-839 1527) **MGM Tottenham Court Road** (071-636 6148) **Odeon Kensington** (0426 914666).

SWEET EMMA, DEAR BOBE (18): István Szabó's piercing portrait of disordered life in post-communist Budapest: his best film in years; strong performance from Johanna Ter Steege.
Metro (071-437 0757).

TOUS LES MATINS DU MONDE (12): Wonderful, melancholy portrait of French Baroque musicians Sainte-Colombe (Jean-Pierre Marielle) and his pupil Marin Marais (Gérard and Guillaume Depardieu). Also starring Anne Brochet; director, Alain Corneau.
Curzon Mayfair (071-465 8865).

A WINTER'S TALE (12): A Paris hairdresser's quest for true love. Eric Rohmer near his best: elegant, clear-eyed, realistic. A film laced with magic.
Minema (071-235 4225) **Renoir** (071-837 8402).

THEATRE: **Benedict Nightingale** refuses to be hoodwinked by the hokum of a new musical

Swanking in the greensward

Robin, Prince of Sherwood
Piccadilly

TALK about braving the stars. Talk about defying augury. Trouble, they say, comes in threes — and what are the musicals that preceded *Robin, Prince of Sherwood* into the Piccadilly? Why, *Moby Dick*, which expensively foundered last summer, and *Which Witch?*, which led to war between Norway and our own Critics Circle.

Again, the only other musical treatment of the Hood story I can recall is *Twang!*, a collaboration between Lionel Bart and Joan Littlewood that spectacularly flopped in the 1960s. Am I right to remember a song that went

An arrow's bow goes twang
An atom bomb goes bang?

No, probably not. Most of the lyrics were not quite that good.

So *Robin, Prince of Sherwood* has to live up to nothing, and, I have to say, it lives up to nothing pretty well. Indeed, there are times when it does better than that. Myself, I don't see the Sheriff of Nottingham as a raging Hell's Angel in black leather and silver studs, accompanied wherever he goes by a witch dressed in black bird's feathers; but at least this piece of historical revisionism, feistily embodied by Peter Howarth, brings a bit of pep to the proceedings.

The proceedings, the work of Rick Fenn and Howarth himself, need all the pep they can get. First, the creators never decide whether they are having fun at the expense of the Hood myth or using it to preach sententious sermons about heroically overcoming impossible odds. Second, and worse, they cannot sustain a good adventure yarn. The sheriff spends a lot of time declaring how evil he is, while almost everybody else tells us what a fine role model Robin is. But what is the concrete evidence for the interminable swank?

Mike Holoway's Robin looks like an over-eager whippet and, when he sings, tends to pant out his words in a high, breathless tenor. He jerks and twitches about the artificial sward exuding nervous highmindedness but actually doing rather little. He can hit a yard-wide bulls-eye with an arrow; he can say things like "Little John, prepare the men for the Sheriff's downfall"; he can nab a treasure-chest from some vastly outnumbered soldiers, and then give it to the doleful peasants who have been complaining of "income tax, purchase tax, supertax, heart attacks"; but, given the chance to rescue Liz Curnick's Maid Marion, all he can do is sing a sentimental ditty to her in what sounds like a thousand-decibel whisper.

The Sheriff seems mostly mouth, too. Even the man who complains, in a line typical of the show's jokey anachronisms, that he was forced to give him an arm and a leg appears to have three of his four limbs intact. And why is the Sheriff so money-mad, when his leisure pursuits are so cheap? Either he is to be found bopping with devils with what are supposed to be horns, but look like carrots, protruding from their heads. Or he sits on his private coffin in the witch's nightclub, drinking Bloody Marys while sinister waitpersons dance about with cocktail shakers.

The score — mostly rock, with the odd gesture towards American country and American black — would be more pleasant if it were less heavily miked. The show's director is also its producer, Bill Kenwright, half of whom really should be asking the other half a few questions. How can he stand all those mushy lyrics about building bridges across galaxies, dreaming dreams, breaking down walls, standing proud and walking tall, especially when nobody does anything of the sort? How can he allow characters to talk of a man "with a hood", and never give Robin one? How can he bring so many good things to the West End, and then serve up this?



The accused: (clockwise from left) Robin (Mike Holoway), Little John (Steven Varnom), Morgana (Anne Smith), Maid Marion (Liz Curnick) and Friar Tuck (Alan Gear). Drawing by Bill Hewison

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Such a misalliance was unlikely to be a success

All God's Chillun Got Wings
West Yorkshire Playhouse, Leeds

REGRETTABLY, this is a production that strains to give vigour to a poor play. Eugene O'Neill's courage in creating it is indisputable; likewise, the resolution of the Provincetown Players to stage it (Paul Robeson in the lead) in 1924. The play's central matter is the disastrous marriage between a black man and a white woman — how quirky of the present director, Burt Caesar, to suggest that it is not — and when the Hearst press learned that a white actress would be seen publicly kissing a black actor's hand, they orchestrated a demand to have the play banned. The production opened with police in the audience and friends guarding the dressing-rooms.

Set in a poor corner of lower New York, the black family are presented as trying to better themselves in a society where whites hate them. The father has bought property, *the sister has sailed* through university, and the hero, Jim, hopes to become a lawyer. By contrast, the white girl, Ella, turns to him because he alone befriends her when the petty crook she has lived with abandons her. What distorts the marriage is the hatred she continues to feel for his race. Though she has suppressed this, the vicious words come bursting from her as she slides into madness.

So this is no simple tale of star-crossed lovers, and in giving the couple the names of his own parents, O'Neill clearly set out also to exorcise some memories of their dreadful marriage. But the three crucial scenes of Ella's decline are wretchedly written, and Geraldine Alexander adds nothing to make them credible. Caesar requires her to move backwards and forwards as she argues with herself and the effect is unintentionally comic. Laughter greeted her entrances waving a carving knife.

Jim's offer to become her adoring black slave is probably unactable today: Christopher John Hall certainly makes it seem both empty and embarrassing. But O'Neill's cursory character-drawing is chiefly to blame.

Caesar sets the play in front of precipitous façades of metal pipes and fire escapes (design by Robert Jones), but he over-develops O'Neill's request for snatches of song. The original plan for a crowd of whites to sing from one side of the street and blacks from the other is soon abandoned for a milling mob, mainly black, as a kind of Greek chorus. Between the scenes of the second half its members become visible at the back of the stage, attractively voicing spirituals, but what bearing these have — ironic? submissive? — on the mad and murderous events beneath them is impossible to fathom.

JEREMY KINGSTON

CONCERT REVIEW

Stars from the East

Vogler Quartet
Wigmore Hall

SO INTEGRAL can the Impressionistic wash of colour seem to Debussy's String Quartet that the work can be unfeeling, even boring to those less sympathetic to the Gallic penchant for allusiveness. It was fascinating, therefore, to hear the Vogler Quartet — a young ensemble from East Berlin rapidly establishing themselves at the forefront of their profession — bring a markedly different sensibility to bear, in their Wigmore Hall recital.

It would be an over-simplification to say that their approach was Germanic. But certainly they were unafraid to highlight the work's emphatic gestures and dynamic contrasts with their strongly characterised, tautly rhythmic playing. Not only were their individual performances commendably free of the squeaks and blemishes that one almost takes for granted, but the cohesiveness of their voices in ensemble and their unity of movement were remarkable.

That precisely calibrated communal understanding allowed them to shape the drama of each movement in such a way that the febrile, nervous fluidity of *Pelléas et Mélisande* frequently asserted itself. The threatening undertones of Debussy's opera were evident immediately in the first movement, but so, equally, were the moments of repose. Indeed, it was the Vogler's ability to mediate between the dramatic and the lyrical that gave the performance its strong profile.

Debussy came to mind, rather unexpectedly, in the opening item of the programme: Bartók's String Quartet No 6. The sensuousness which the ensemble found in among the more acerbic passages, combined with their full, rich tone, more than once offered a reminder of just how influential Debussy's single quartet was to the modernists. Nicely captured, too, was the mood of melancholy passion that engulfs the final movement, before it drifts despairingly away into the void.

The Voglers were joined by **Emma Johnson** for a smoothly articulated, expressive account of Mozart's Clarinet Quintet in A major. In the Larghetto the strings provided a tranquil cushion of sound for the languid, liquid tone of Johnson's clarinet. In that context, all the more memorable were the interjections of the viola as it penetrated plangently through the texture.

BARRY MILLINGTON

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CINEMAS

CURZON MAYFAIR Curzon St. 071 465 8865 Gerard Depardieu in **TOUS LES MATINS DU MONDE** (12) Progs at 1.10 (not Sun) 3.30, 6.00 & 8.25

CURZON WEST END Shaftesbury Ave W1 071 439 4805 Jeremy Irons, Juliette Binoche in **DAMAGE** (18) A film by Louis Malle. Progs at 12.45, 3.20, 6.00 & 8.35

CURZON PHOENIX Phoenix St, off Charing Cross Rd 071 867 1044 **HOWARDS END** (PG) Progs at 2.30, 5.15 & 8.05

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THE TIMES FRIDAY FEBRUARY 5 1993

Accent on the quaint and quirky

Geoff Brown picks out some of the best of the distinctly idiosyncratic offerings at this year's Rotterdam Film Festival

Outside Cairo, Rotterdam's film festival must be the only one where you could possibly see an Egyptian man dancing with a frozen chicken which he met while living in a freezer. This occurs in *Love in the Fridge*, proudly featured in a selection of comedies from Egypt and Iran, chosen in part with the humanitarian aim of moderating the West's stereotyped images of Islamic culture.

Rotterdam's festival, now in its 22nd year, has always steered clear of mainstream fodder, and its current director, dashing documentary film-maker Emile Fallaux, is doing everything to continue the tradition. One section, "The Limits of Liberty", is of features and film-makers who suffer censorship of various kinds. Metod Pevec's Yugoslav war story *The Deserter* has surfaced, thus breaking the UN boycott of Serbia. Wu Zinou's *The Big Mill*, withdrawn by the Chinese from the Berlin Film Festival two years ago, also appeared, dazzling audiences with its powerful images of love and cruelty in the Red Army's guerrilla war of the 1930s.

The films unfold, from nine in the morning to the wee hours the following day, in a city centre that gives eloquent witness to the horrors perpetrated by wartime bombers and modern architects. Normally the cinemas house *Home Alone 2* and the rest of the Hollywood fare that circles and imprisons the globe. But for ten days each year they are set free.

Not that American cinema is a dirty word here. Rotterdam cherishes independent spirits such as Jim Jarmusch, Jon Jost and Hal Hartley. This year Abel Ferrara, maker of ferociously stylised, violent dramas, is receiving the retrospective treatment. Faced with the raging Angst and indulgence of some debuting film-makers, it was almost a relief to fall upon **Ms.45** of 1981, where Ferrara directs with an aim as sure as that of the dumb, mousy heroine, who bounces back from a rape and mugging by slaying every predatory male in sight.

Among the new American contingent, Mark D'Auria's feature debut **Smoke** created quite a stir for its awkward but brave portrait of a young gay in New York with a frustrated penchant for older, heavier men. Following the grand tradition of first-person cinema, D'Auria plays the tortured hero himself. D'Auria's admiration for the films of Sergei Paradjanov leads him to douse the soundtrack with Russian liturgical chants, producing a grandiose air the images rarely deserve. He copes better in intimate scenes, where the characters' sexual preferences are presented without ever seeming distasteful.

Then there is David Lynch, tucked away in a section entitled "Cinema Made By Television". Two episodes have been screened from a new television series, **On The Air** — so aggressively silly that it sits up and begs to be axed by network executives. The time is 1957; the place, the Zoblotnick Broadcasting Corporation, where a live variety series, "The Lester Guy Show", causes endless turmoil. Its émigré director, Vladja Gochktch, shouts down the wrong end of his megaphone; Blinkie, the guy on the sound effects panel, suffers from multiple vision; while the show's female lead has an IQ that makes Gracie Allen look like Einstein. No matter how bizarre the doings in *Twin Peaks*, Lynch's actors kept straight faces; here, they furiously play for laughs that only the most indulgent viewer will provide.

> 'Riotous transformations wrought on the oom-pah-pah'

Brass Unbound, however, met with general rejoicing: how can you resist any film that ends with four brass bands from Ghana and the Far East ripping through "It's a Long Way to Tipperary"? This is the work of Johan van der Keuken, a poetic, quizzical master of Dutch documentary, fascinated by the cultural divide between north and south, east and west. Using scientific research by anthropologist Rob Boonzajer, van der Keuken took his cameras to Nepal, Surinam, the Minahassa peninsula and Ghana, observing the riotous transformations that native culture wrought on the old oom-pah-pah of the colonial brass band.

Here are tartan bagpipes and home-made tubas of gargantuan size, blasting away at weddings, funerals and street gatherings with an explosive "world music" that keeps the foot tapping. A few cuts during the interviews and the camera's perambulations might help cohesion, but I cannot think of any other recent film that made me want to rush out and buy the soundtrack CD. Alas, there isn't one.

Back in the west, France has brought forth **Les Nuits fauves**, a flashy first feature from Cyril Collard, author, lyric writer and past assistant to Maurice Pialat. Like D'Auria, Collard assumes centre stage as a bisexual cameraman in 1986 who pursues joint affairs with a teenage girl (Romane Bohringer) and a hulking footballer, despite being diagnosed HIV-positive. With his open-necked shirts and self-regarding pose, Collard might have stepped from a cigarette advert; so might his directorial style. The glossy images race by, leaving the hero's reckless behaviour virtually unchallenged. The film makes a noise, certainly, but it is not a noise to be encouraged.

One French film in Rotterdam actually is a cigarette advert; its directors are Jean-Luc Godard, no less, and his customary helpmate, Anne Marie Miéville. To a loud soundtrack, stockinged feet push through cigarette packets on the floor; a book, *Parisienne People*, is being read; someone lights up. The disjointed images are all over in 35 seconds, leaving no impression other than bewilderment.

Another New Wave veteran, Luc Moullet, appeared with the endearingly weird **Parpaillon**, partly inspired by "The Passion Considered as an Uphill Bicycle Race", a famous jape by Ubu's creator Alfred Jarry. Tati-esque visual gags nonchalantly unfold as the cast of cyclists struggle up winding slopes in the French Alps. Some cheat; some conduct business with mobile phones; one wears a tutu. It is hard to see Moullet's *divertissement* finding commercial success, but there is much for connoisseurs to enjoy in its quiet absurdist comedy.

For obvious reasons, absurdist and jet-black comedy dominate many films from the old Soviet Union. Nikolai Dostal had a winner last year in *Cloud Heaven*, but his follow-up, awkwardly entitled **A Small Giant of Big Sex**, loses its way in broad buffoonery about a seaside Casanova's exploits in the Kruschchev era. Alexei Balabanov's **Happy Days**, a debut feature, showed plenty of promise with its stark account of a homeless amnesiac in pre-revolutionary St Petersburg. The festival continues with the rare, the unusual, the brazen and courageous until Sunday; happy days indeed.



Met with general rejoicing: Dutch documentary master Johan van der Keuken's Brass Unbound

OPERA: THE VIENNA KAMMEROPER

Cross-border traffic heavier than ever

The Vienna Kammeroper has just celebrated its fortieth birthday with the work with which it began life, *Il Signor Bruschino*. This is early Rossini, coming just before *L'italiana in Algeri*, and has the overture which requires the strings to tap their bows in unison against the music stands. It is ideal for a chamber opera company: one longish act and a single set, two meaty buffo roles, rewarding arias for tenor and soprano as the young lovers, and no chorus.

Back in 1953 the Kammeroper was giving the Vienna premiere, sung in German with a cast of young Austrian singers. The company had been born out of the Vienna Opera Studio, which employed artists such as Eberhard Waechter, Walter Berry and Waldemar Kmentt at the start of their careers. Forty years on the Kammeroper has a rather different look. *Bruschino*, sung in Italian, was staged by a Russian (Vadim Milkov) in zippy commedia dell'arte style complete with masks, reasonably enough as Rossini's *farsa* had its first performance in Venice. It was conducted with élan by a Czech, Petr Vronsky.

The most promising voice on stage belonged to another Russian, Marina Schukova, who if she can suppress a slight hardness in her soprano should be well on the way to a substantial international career — Lucia an obvious future role. The new Czech Republic provided the baritone (Vojtech Nalezenec) for Bruschino himself, a faintly Falstaffian figure who gets duped in the interests of true love before dispensing forgiveness all round. The buffo bass (Aleksandr Teliga) came from the Ukraine. Only for the tenor role of Florville did the Kammeroper look to the West and come up with Fermin Montagud, an agile Spanish tenor in the Gimenez mould.

Hans Gabor, who has run the Kammeroper from the outset, which must put him well in contention for the title of Europe's longest-serving Intendant, reckons that the East is going to dominate the search for young singers in the years ahead. "The talent is there and so is the enthusiasm — when I was in Moscow before Christmas I auditioned over 200 singers. What is lacking is the polish: we have to provide that."

This artistic push from east to west has certainly been fuelled by the annual Belvedere singing competition held in Vienna each summer and operated by the Kammeroper. Applications by the thousand are whittled down to about 300 by the July final rounds. Well before the political barriers broke down in eastern Europe singers, led by the Romanians and Poles, saw an award at the Belvedere as a route to fame and fortune. The major prize-winner of two years ago, the Romanian soprano Angela Gheorghiu, sings Liù in this month's Covent Garden revival of *Turandot*.

This pressure from the East is undoubtedly making the Kammeroper much more international. Its theatre, a 300-seater, used to be an experimental house, where on a good night Klaus Kinski might have been heard reciting Rimbaud before the Kammeroper acquired it in 1963. It is situated at the furthest remove within Vienna's Ring from the State Opera, deliberately, some would say, because of the Kammeroper's fiercely guarded independence. It began by putting on small-scale performances of unfamiliar works: Rossini, Donizetti, Offenbach, the first Viennese performances of Mozart's *La finta semplice* and *Il re pastore*. There was an inward looking period when Viennese parodies of grand opera were unearthed and staged by the great comedian Fritz Muliar — *Otheller!, the Moor of Vienna, The Barber of Sievering* . . . "We did", says Gabor, "what the State Opera and the Volksoper did not."



Unconventional: a scene from George Tabori's first production, I Pagliacci

And if there was an overlap then the Kammeroper went to some lengths to ensure that their product would be *very* different. A rock *Bohème* in the mid-Eighties was not all that successful but a rock *Carmen* immediately after devised by Stewart Trotter, one-time director of Exeter's Northcott Theatre, sold out every performance. Trotter is scheduled to have *The Tales of Hoffmann* rocking next season. The veteran director George Tabori was persuaded to stage his first opera and obliged with a highly unconventional *Pagliacci*.

But now the eyes are turned east. The next opera in is Schnittke's *Life with an Idiot* performed in Russian, a co-production with the Moscow Chamber Opera. The Kammeroper remains a staging-post for young singers — the average age of the *Bruschino* cast was 27 — but it now stands where Vienna has always stood: at the crossroads of Europe.

JOHN HIGGINS

DANCE: **Nadine Meisner** on a value-for-money mixed bill and what may be the dance equivalent of Grunge

Bravo Birmingham for assorted abundance

Birmingham Royal Ballet
Sadler's Wells

BIRMINGHAM Royal Ballet's opening programme at Sadler's Wells may have seemed a rag-bag assortment of six items, but it certainly represented value for money. Recognising this, Londoners packed the auditorium. They gasped at Tetsuya Kumakawa in the *Don Quixote pas de deux*, soaring in space with bracing clarity; chuckled at the jokes in Ashton's *Façade*; and sat silently gripped by Kurt Jooss's searing expressionist drama, *The Green Table*.

It was not only Kumakawa, guesting from the Royal Ballet, who produced crackling sparks in *Don Quixote*, but his Japanese compatriot Miyako Yoshida, always so perfect in her outlines, with a refined musicality that allowed her to highlight the rhythms. Next to such panache, Kenneth MacMillan's 20-year-old *Pavane*, danced by Marion Tait and Kevin O'Hare, seemed to lack purpose, betraying its origin as a lyrical pas de deux custom-made for a gala.

There was nothing vapid about Hans van Manen's *Twilight*, the programme's remaining duet. A restless, nervy couple explore their relationship against an uneasy industrial landscape and orange sun congealed in the smog-filled, darkening sky. Joseph Cipolla possessed a satisfying brooding core of intensity, which Chenca Williams did not, as though it had fizzled out through her long limbs. But in *Façade*, nicely underplayed by its cast, she revealed a subtle gift for comedy as the Debutante: the delayed astonishment on her face was a beautiful response to the paralysing shock of being suddenly cartwheeled in the air.



MARILYN KINGWILL

Slight: Kevin O'Hare and Michela Centin in Paramour for Birmingham Royal Ballet

The revival of Graham Lustig's *Paramour*, featuring silly society flirtations and fluttering chiffon, seemed small beer in a programme which ended with Jooss's 1932 anti-war masterpiece. To anyone new to *The Green Table* what comes across most forcibly is the way Jooss's movement merges graphic spareness with a powerful, highly specific eloquence. The white-gloved hands of the Gentlemen in Black are ever-mobile in their discussions around the green table, clapping to show agreement, pointing to put forward an argument; while the white-gloved hands of the Profiteer move quite differently, flapping smoothly and adroitly, communicating his slippery ability to exploit any given situation. The dancers gave riveting performances: to name individuals would not be fair.

Krakeel
The Place

A MAN picks up a girl as though she were a sack of potatoes, slings her over one shoulder and with his free hand reaches for a drink. Still hanging shapelessly, she retaliates by grabbing it from him and slinging it to the floor. It could just as well have been vomit spewing out, considering the nature of the rest of the show: *Station Hotel* by a young group called Krakeel, in The Place's "Spring Loaded" series.

This hotel is not the kind of establishment to get a Michelin rating. Chairs and tables strewn with dirty glasses inhabit the interior, as do six unprepossessing individuals whose manifest lack of purpose in life identifies them as not destined for the fast lane to success. Activity for them consists of hanging from trapezes for no discernible reason; sprawling lifelessly on the ground; sliding on and off the edge of a table in what could only be an appalling alcohol- or drug-induced stupor.

Occasionally they also crash violently about in a dance language so destitute that not even the desperate addition of hand-held torches could add interest. They engage in prolonged embraces in various sexual permutations which include one man dressed as a woman. They sing, they posture droopily, they want to be endearing.

Determined to adopt modish attitudes, Kristina Page and her company have opted for already over-used devices and ended up with clichés. In the interest of what theme, is anybody's guess. If there is any glimmer of meaning in the performers' faces it is hidden behind straggly hair that falls forward as they slouch. *Station Hotel*, the result of a Digital Dance Award, is a little gem of incoherence.

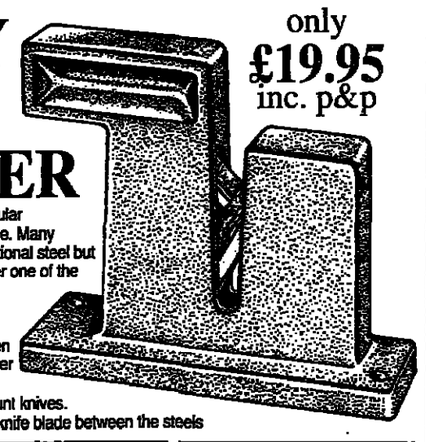
Suddenly it dawned on me. Page has combined the brutalism of the Belgian choreographer Wim Vandekeybus and the restaurant setting of Pina Bausch's *Cafe Müller* (presented at the last Edinburgh Festival) to produce the dance equivalent of Grunge, god help us.

THE TIMES

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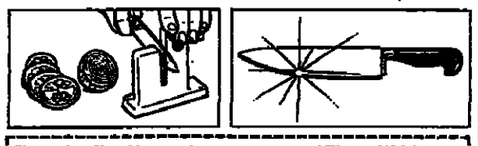
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TIM0011

Fancy flying solo?

With permanent jobs in computer technology at risk, more staff are going freelance, writes David Guest

The attraction of higher pay and the peripatetic lifestyle of the freelance computer specialist have long been the envy of the staid but more secure full-time office worker.

"Earnings of £1,000 a week are by no means uncommon," John Samson, the editor of *Computer Contractor* magazine, told readers in a recent issue. The question of whether to "go contract" with the possibility of being able to double earnings is one that most computer staff ask themselves at some time or another.

Although the middle of a recession may not be the ideal time to turn freelance, full-timers in information technology can no longer bank on the industry offering the secure career that it did in the 1970s and 1980s.

While some are born to be their own boss, others have increasingly had it thrust upon them, and the possibility of choice is diminishing. Freelance staff have also suffered during the recession. At first sight, however, it would appear that employment patterns in computing have changed in their favour as companies reduce staff and rely more on contractors with specific skills for individual projects.

But with plenty of permanent staff having been shown the door, competition for contract work has increased dramatically. It means that those considering a voluntary move into freelancing face a dilemma. Should they jump or wait to be pushed?

"Looking at the next six months, it is not a good time to start," says Paul Butler, a contractor of two years standing but with 12 years experience in computing. "The number of vacancies is picking up, but only slowly."

Getting the first contract is likely to be the most difficult problem, he says. "When people employ contractors, they are normally looking for an early start date. If you are on a month or three month's notice from your permanent employer, you cannot do it."

Under present circumstances it would take a strong nerve to hand in your notice in the hope of finding a suitable contract several weeks or months hence. "And the rates contractors can charge have been very depressed in some areas," Mr Butler says.

Newcomers to contracting in information technology can suffer from the same Catch-22 situation prevalent in many disciplines. Employers often prefer those who can prove that the freelance life suits both them and their work.

In 1989, the high-water mark of contracting, there were seven magazines devoted to the interests of freelance computer staff. Now there are only two — VNU's *Computer Contractor* and Reed's *Freelance Informer*.

Tony Faure, the publisher of *Computer Contractor*, sees some hope of better times ahead. "The market has been growing in the past 12 months and more noticeably in the past six," he says.

Susan Cuff, a director of the personnel agency Computer People, acknowledges that the market is in recession, but adds: "The business hasn't died and if anything the market is more competitive than in previous recessions. A skills squeeze in open systems has become increasingly apparent. The signs are that the recession is starting to wane."

Other skills in demand include experience of relational databases, the sophisticated modern data storage and retrieval systems. However, competition between contractors is more intense than in previous years, especially for lower level work and, as a consequence, rates are depressed.

Contractors have had to be prepared to be flexible, says Ms Cuff, who notes that the average length of contracts is sharply down. "In the past two or three years the average contract was more than six months. Now it is about half that. This affects people's ability to forecast their revenues and profits and increases the administrative burden."

Mr Butler, presently working as a consultant to an aircraft maintenance project for a subsidiary of British Airways based near Rhoose Airport, Cardiff, says that he is more optimistic than at this time last year. "It was probably the worst since I have been in the industry. I have never known as many people out of work. The number of those with prematurely terminated contracts was incredible. A lot of friends and colleagues have had 12 months out of work and I, too, was unemployed for a period of six months."

If the contractor has one advantage, it is that the very act of going freelance implies acceptance of a degree of insecurity. Ms Cuff says: "In a way the contractor may be in a better position than the permanent staff member because the security of a permanent job is questionable."

One contractor described his salaried colleagues as wearing expressions suggestive of a "sack-by date" stamped on their foreheads.

GLENN EDWARDS



High-flyer running his own business: Paul Butler, a freelance computer consultant, at Rhoose airport

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The successful applicant is likely to be aged 25 to 35 with a proven track record in software design and engineering, with specific experience in the use of the C/++ language. A professional qualification in a building-related discipline would be a great advantage, as would familiarity in the use and customisation of a major CAD system and the development tools available in either the Macintosh or MS Windows environment.

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INFOTECH

'Allo, 'allo ring of confidence

In the future you will be able to let the phone do the talking in any language, says Matthew May



On the line: foreigners who speak no French will be able to place a word-perfect lunch order by phone in time for their arrival in France

Tick the language you want to speak, says the advertisement for one mail-order course which promises that learning anything from Afrikaans to Thai can take as little as three months.

In a few years' time such language schools may face competition from a new service that will make it completely unnecessary to speak a foreign language when telephoning abroad. Placing a special dialling code in front of the telephone number of the country being called will ensure that the recipient hears the call in whatever tongue is chosen.

It may be very early days, but last week saw the first successful international trial of a telephone translating system that could be the basis of just such a service. "Moshi, moshi," said a Japanese researcher into his telephone in Kyoto. A few seconds later his greeting was received by a colleague at Carnegie-Mellon University in Pittsburgh as a synthesised voice saying "Hello".

"Hello, this is the conference office," the American researcher replied. "May I help you?" A perfect Japanese translation was heard in Kyoto about 15 seconds later. Other researchers in Munich joined in to test the system's ability to translate from German to Japanese or English and vice versa.

While some may scoff at the very idea, the Japanese Advanced Telecommunications Research (ATR), the institute behind the trial, takes it very seriously indeed.

To get this far has taken seven years and cost almost £90 million. Funds have come from the Japanese government and industry, including telecommunications and electronics companies. The strength of the Japanese commitment to perfect machines that can translate has been compared to the effort by America to reach the moon. So far the vocabulary of the system stands at about 1,500 words — small, but perhaps enough to be useful for specific business conversations.

"The system might initially be used by car rental agencies or hotels for reservations when multilingual staff are not available and the range of conversation is not too broad," says Shigeki Sagayama, the head of ATR's speech-processing department.

Telephone translation is the most ambitious end of development work aimed at making translation by computers an everday service. However, to gain wide acceptance, translating by telephone needs to be able to handle "live" conversations as they happen.

Instantaneous translation that is not restricted to specialist uses is still many years away — up to ten years, say some experts, although others are convinced that it could be in common use well before the end of the decade.

Last week's demonstration, for example, was accomplished by converting each spoken sentence into text. It was then translated from or into Japanese by a computer and sent over the telephone line as a digital message before being reconverted into speech at the other end using a voice synthesiser.

It is a process which takes about ten to 15 seconds for each sentence to get through — short enough to be usable, with a stilted 15 minute conversation being conducted last week, but far too slow for a good gossip.

The primitive systems already on sale that translate the written word take considerably longer to translate a tricky phrase or two.

Their accuracy, of anything from 70 to 90 per cent, may be acceptable as a first draft of a written document that can then be tidied up by a translator. But if a business telephone call has a similar percentage of errors it could soon descend into farce.

Systems that recognise speech tend to be speaker dependent. Users have to programme the machines to understand them by repeating words several times until the system recognises their voices. Even then a heavy cold or one too many at lunchtime is likely to result in the computer failing until full health or sobriety is restored.

Last week's demonstration, however, achieved speaker independence. The system does not need to be trained to recognise a particular person, but will work with any voice.

Because the processing power for telephone translation services can be based at a telephone exchange, expensive computers can be shared by those using the service. This is considerably easier than trying to cram the necessary computing power into an affordable pocket or desktop device.

> 'The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak came out in Russian as the vodka is good, but the meat is rotten'

The predicted surge in power from new types of computer chips is expected to be in demand precisely by those who are developing programs for complex analytical tasks such as voice recognition and language translation.

Translations made by a machine, however, have one further problem. Mistakes instantly attract the derision of those convinced that computers will never be able to make more than a botch job at translation. Stories abound, sometimes apocryphal, of computers that have struggled valiantly but been unable to cope. "The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak," allegedly came out in Russian as "The vodka is good, but the meat is rotten."

Fujitsu executives have cause to regret at least one demonstration of their work in the field made to Margaret Thatcher, then prime minister, in 1989. "I think it is an honour to visit this company today," she told the machine which attempted to translate into Japanese and then back into English. "I think the visit today in this company in honour," it said, paused and then tried again: "This company having visited today of me is honourable."

Systems have improved since and once the remaining problems are solved demand will no doubt be huge. Both BT here and AT&T in America already offer telephone translation services for business executives — AT&T in more than 140 languages — but for the moment it is not a machine but a human interpreter who sits in on the call.

ONLINE

A change of tuner

THE European version of high-definition television looks like a non-starter, says Martin Bangemann, the European Community industrial commissioner.

He suggests that the EC should redirect its efforts towards more modern digital systems and rescue whatever elements of the European version could be applied to these systems.

The European Commission has been fighting for more than a year to get the community to spend £700 million to promote a European standard for wide-screen, cinema-quality television.

Cost cutter

THE clothing chain BhS has signed a data-processing contract worth more than £100 million over 11 years. Computer Sciences, which will take over the management of all BhS *infotech requirements*, says the deal guarantees a minimum 30 per cent saving on computing costs.

New view

MOST personal computers are still running the DOS operating system, but buyers are increasingly opting for the graphical software Windows, says the research firm Ovum. It predicts a strong future for Microsoft's new operating system Windows NT.

IBM sues

IBM is suing the Japanese company Kyocera for more than £100 million, alleging infringement of a patent on basic software built into personal computers. The software, contained in a semiconductor chip, is called the basic input and output system (BIOS). Kyocera denies the charge, saying it developed its BIOS independently and will contest the issue.

Extra digit

MOST telephone numbers in Britain will change in a little over two years when an extra digit will be added after the initial 0 of area dialling codes.

Describing April 16, 1995 as Phoneday, BT says it will contact communications managers about reprogramming switchboards and computers, although there is concern that some equipment may not be able to handle the extra digit.

Fax adepts

DESPITE being rather old-fashioned, there are still more than 500,000 Amstrad PCWs in Britain. Now, by adding a £230 module, it is possible to adapt them to work as fax machines, say London-based distributors Margolis.

Any old chips?

A SCHEME to provide technology aid to the Third World and British charities is looking for any unwanted IT equipment. Adrian Sharp, the organiser of the project for the Worshipful Company of Information Technologists, says: "We need all types of PCs, working or not, printers, power supplies, monitors, faxes, phones — in fact every piece of equipment you would find in an office apart from the furniture." Anyone with redundant equipment should contact Vic Bull on 0708 377795.

Virtually ready

PEOPLE will be able to walk through a virtual reality version of Newcastle upon Tyne's £180 million redevelopment of the East Quayside some years before it completed. The project, which will use a computer system from Dimension International, will be used to show prospective tenants around "virtual buildings".

High Security Notebooks.

New Toshiba notebooks launched this week. Based on low power 486SX, T4500s feature new cordless Microsoft BallPoint Mouse; PCMCIA 2.0 slots for credit-card size expansion options; Fort Knox-like security protection plus SVGA external display driver. Morse prices from £1780.

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INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT

PROVISION OF FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM

The Commonwealth Secretariat plans to implement a new Financial Management Information System (FMIS) on 1 July 1993. The FMIS will support the introduction of programme budgeting in the Secretariat as well as commitment accounting and a system of budgetary allocation and funds control. In addition, a project tracking and costing system is planned. The Secretariat operates a Prime 50 series processor but intends to move to a UNIX platform either now or in the next two to three years.

FMIS software vendors are invited to submit expressions of interest in supplying the FMIS software and, if applicable, UNIX hardware. The key requirements are:

- ★ Operations under UNIX or PRIMOS with a demonstrable migration path to UNIX
- ★ sales, purchase and general ledgers, budget allocations/funds control, purchasing, project and time recording, and fixed assets.
- ★ support for organisational, program, project, and activity based costing and budgeting (ie multi-dimensional ledger capability.)
- ★ concurrent cash, accrual and commitment accounting
- ★ flexible and easy to use report generator
- ★ flexible interface with external systems
- ★ multi-currency capability
- ★ easily and quickly customisable.

Vendors who can offer FMIS software which meets these requirements should provide an outline of the software functionality with an emphasis on the above. Products will be shortlisted on the basis of this outline, and short-listed vendors will be asked to complete a detailed evaluation questionnaire leading to a procurement decision.

Responses should be directed to Mr Rickie Sankar at the address below. They should reach the Secretariat before close of business on Friday 19 February 1993. Enquiries may be directed to Mr S. Vallipuram by telephone.

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NETWORK SUPPORT/RDBMS DEVELOPMENT

The Central Science Laboratory (CSL) as an Executive Agency of the Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food, is a centre of excellence for R&D of Agriculture, Food, Crop and Environment Protection. The Information Systems Team provides an I.T. service to CSL and currently has three computing professionals.

1. Higher Scientific Officer, Network support and Informix Development at Harpenden (one post). To provide support for a network based on SUN servers, workstations and PCs and analysis and programming for Informix applications. The post calls for more than basic experience of UNIX and Informix. DBA experience is also required and skills in 'C', macro language and spreadsheets would be an advantage.

2. Scientific Officers. Network support and ORACLE and Informix Development at Harpenden and Slough (two posts). To provide some network support and to undertake ORACLE and Informix DBA and development roles. Familiarity with both UNIX and Novell networks is desirable.

Salaries ranging between £12,936 and £18,916 are available depending on skill and experience.

CSL will be relocating to a single site near York in 1996/7. For an application form and further details, please contact Mrs Bucknall, Personnel, Central Science Laboratory, London Road, Slough, SL3 7HJ. Tel: (0753) 534626, ext 400. Closing date for return of completed applications is February 12, 1993.

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CENTRAL SCIENCE LABORATORY

Gears and grumbles in the mire

Vaughan Freeman was an off-road novice, until he spent a day on Vauxhall's four-wheel-drive Frontera course

A tyre-sucking, axle-deep morass of glutinous mud in a corner of Luton is Vauxhall's latest contribution to off-road safety and driving skills. On a typical training session for motorists wanting to learn how to cope with the muddiest conditions, this quagmire turns otherwise able drivers into panic-stricken amateurs, all spinning wheels and stalled engines.

The track has been bulldozed out of the Bedfordshire manufacturer's former testing ground to give buyers of Vauxhall's Frontera four-wheel-drive vehicles a free one-day lesson in what their cars can and cannot do and how to do what they can do safely.

Introduced last year, the Frontera was one of the sales successes of 1992; half the 37 per cent increase in sales of FWD cars was accounted for by the Frontera. And 80 per cent of the 30,000 or so built have been sold abroad.

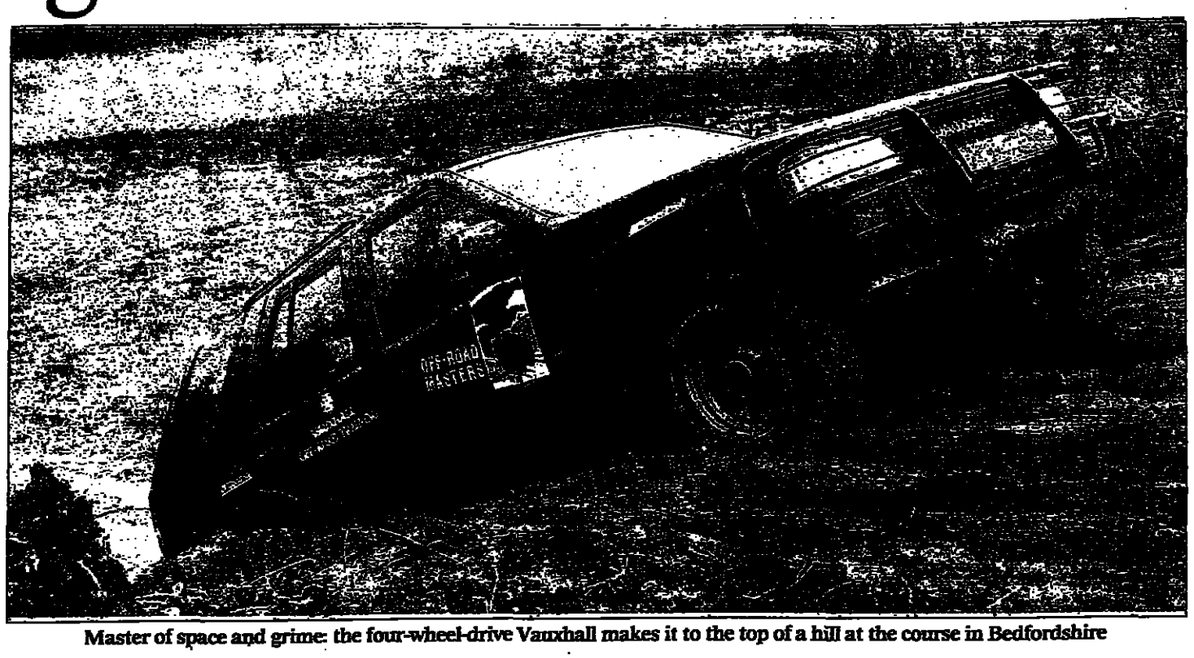
As sales of FWD vehicles increase in Europe, so concern has grown about the damage they might cause on countryside byways, such as the Ridgeway, much-loved by ramblers. Courses similar to the one at Luton are held at other sites, including some in north Wales, the Lake District and Scotland. Owners need not worry about sinking their new vehicles in the mire: Vauxhall supplies Fronteras for the lessons.

Derek Gibson, a Vauxhall instructor, introduced me to the task. "We do things gently," he said. "We try to give Frontera owners a nice, relaxing time by showing the vehicle's potential."

The instructor makes a demonstration run. Then it is the novice's turn. The first rule is to keep the thumbs clear of the steering wheel in case it suddenly spins and cracks a bone. The second rule is to remember that off-road driving is alien to motorists used to driving on the road. Off-road, drivers do things that would cause apoplexy or an accident elsewhere, such as turning the engine off in second gear to brake, turning the engine on in first gear to pull away and reversing the usual advice of steering into a skid if things get really slippery.

Mr Gibson spells out his theory of "angle gear momentum"; deciding the angle of approach before starting a climb or descent is paramount. Hills are tackled head-on for maximum traction and ditches are attacked at a 45 degree angle with one wheel at a time going in and coming out to cut the risk of being bogged down. Climb in second gear and descend in first, which requires a swift change while teetering on the summit.

I aim the car at a hill; I am to rehearse avoiding a stall. The idea is to start in second gear, point the car sky-wards, then defy common sense by braking until the engine seems about to give up. Then the driver should depress the clutch, switch into reverse and go down backwards in a straight line. If the vehicle is not going to make it up the hill, Mr Gibson recommends reversing and starting again rather than stalling on the hill and sliding back out of control.



Master of space and grime: the four-wheel-drive Vauxhall makes it to the top of a hill at the course in Bedfordshire

On the next exercise, a ditch looms and I approach at an angle to "tiptoe" the car through in second gear, one wheel at a time. Mr Gibson tells me to leave the brake alone but to switch off the ignition without touching the clutch. The car squelches to a halt. To re-start, first gear is selected and the ignition switched on again, without touching the clutch. With no shudder, the car pulls away. This technique eliminates the risk of skidding and wheel-spin that use of the brakes might bring.

The steeper hills require a run-up; two-thirds up the steepest hill I feel that I am about to tumble backwards. I am told to raise the revs, then twist the steering wheel rapidly — one way, then the other — which gives the front wheels more grip. I edge forward: the technique works. At the top, I am told to make a quick change to first. Both feet are tucked away from the pedals and the car makes its way slowly down.

Maximum concentration is required. Mr Gibson says: "One man driving up the hill actually seemed to stop breathing until we reached the top, when he let out a huge sigh and resumed breathing properly."

The course includes classroom sessions to foster an awareness of the countryside and of environmental concerns. After a day in the sludge, snow, mud or sand, drivers learn how to check that the car is still in good shape.

Admirable sentiments, certainly. But the truth is that the course is also tremendous fun, which is surely what FWD cars are all about.

ROADWISE

Qualified failures

NEARLY half of 400 recently qualified drivers failed the equivalent of the driving test when taking part in a study organised by the Transport Research Laboratory. The main reasons for failure were driving too fast, poor observation, approaching junctions too quickly, incorrect use of controls when reversing, poor steering and failure to use the mirror.

Time bomb

BEWARE of buying a used car that has done more miles than the odometer indicates. CAP Nationwide Motor Research, the motor industry commentator, says: "With the large numbers of high-mileage former company vehicles around, it is more than likely that some will fall into the hands of 'clockers'. It is the responsibility of the buyer to substantiate the mileage."

Are you Seated?

SEAT has released pictures of its new Ibiza "interclass" car, which it claims is the first to bridge the gap between medi-


Niche product: new Ibiza

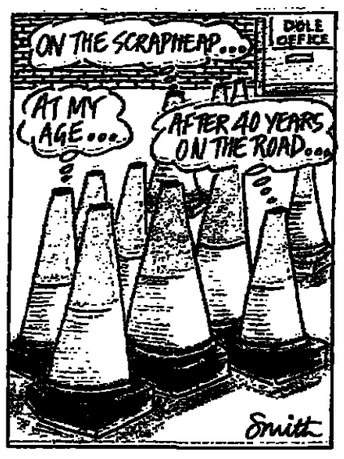
um-size hatchbacks and the supermini. The idea is to appeal to a fresh set of motorists. The car, to be built in Spain, is due in Britain this summer.

High charger

MAZDA'S sporty and popular MX5, which has found a quarter of a million buyers worldwide, now delivers truly electrifying performance. Mazda engineers have developed an electric-powered version using nickel cadmium batteries, which give a top speed of 80 mph and a range of 111 miles.

Three of the electric cars have been built as prototypes by Mazda, with help from the Chugoku electric power company, to study battery power for future production models.

End of the road approaches for the cone



The bane of motorists around Britain will be on the way out if a new road-building technique is adopted

The misery of road works and the seemingly endless procession of motorway cones could be lessened by the development of a longer-lasting road. British and Danish researchers, funded by the European Commission, have completed four years of studies of Ecopave, a new method of road-building.

The engineers claim that the technique will reduce the need for maintenance.

Modern concrete roads usually consist of pavements of concrete with widely spaced gaps, over which bitumen or asphalt is sometimes laid. The gaps allow the road to expand and contract under the weight of traffic and temperature changes.

The Ecopave design involves laying a new concrete formulation, which is mechanically treated after a week or so. Engineers believe that with the new system, roads normally likely to last 20 years could hold up for as long as 40 years.

The Ecopave treatment creates thousands of hairline fractures, from the surface to the base of the concrete, explains Dr Alan Maries, one of the engineers, who is based at Trafalgar House Technology in Maple Cross, Hertfordshire. These spread the expansion and contraction over a greater area, reducing the amount of wear. The researchers have also refined and speeded up the processes used to lay the concrete so that the same construction machine can lay both the concrete and the asphalt or bitumen coating. The concrete can also be made from power-station fly ash and old concrete.

Tests carried out at the transport department's research laboratory in Crowthorne, Berkshire, and at the Danish Road Institute, suggest that construction costs may fall by 15 per cent and repair savings may be between 40 and 50 per cent.

Research has been carried out on the A30, where the method has been applied to a one kilometre section. A stretch of motorway linking Denmark and Sweden has also been made using the technique and is expected to open soon.

Building and maintaining the UK national road network is expected to cost £1.97 billion this year, rising to £2.09 billion in 1993-4. On average, each section of motorway is repaired every ten years at a cost of £3 million a kilometre.

Roads built to the new design might need repairing only every 15 years, which should also reduce the number of times drivers sit in congested lanes surrounded by a forest of red and white cones.

NICK NUTTALL

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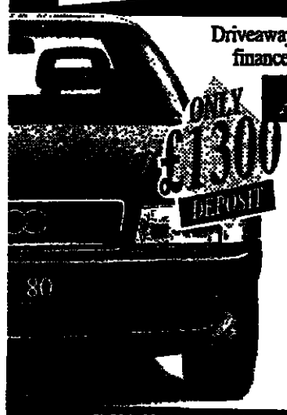
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944 Turbo SE Silver rose, 1988, 1 of 75, perfect condition, FPSH, only 30,000 mls. £14,000. Tel: 0892 668566.

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944 Turbo SE Silver rose, 1988, 1 of 75, perfect condition, FPSH, only 30,000 mls. £14,000. Tel: 0892 668566.

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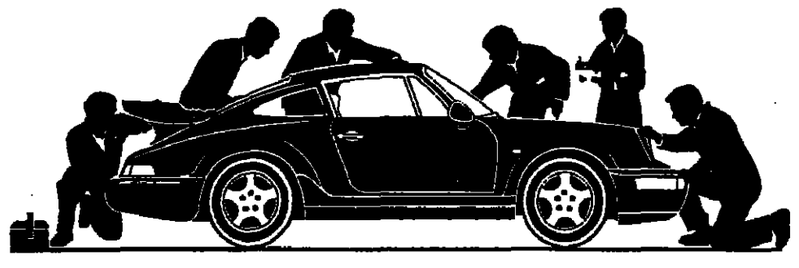
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PORSCHE

French rugby followers remain unconvinced by their talented stand-off half

Camberabero confident of proving his class

BY CHRIS THAU

THERE is no convenient mould in which to categorise Didier Camberabero. He is not a little scuttling stand-off half, like Jean Gachassin, nor has he the lean elegance of Pierre Albaladejo; he is not merely a formidable kicker, like Jean-Pierre Romeu, and lacks the physical, glowering presence of Jean-Patrick Lescarboura.

Maybe this is part of the French problem. They frequently feel they could do better in the pivotal position of stand-off, so they banish players like Gachassin and Camberabero to the wing to do penance or kick goals as Camberabero did to such effect during the 1987 World Cup, when he set a world record of 30 points in one match against Zimbabwe.

Camberabero has built many facets into his game but even now, having been recalled after a year in the wilderness to play against England last month and Scotland at Parc des Princes tomorrow, he remains under pressure.

The burly Alain Penaud, preferred last season when Pierre Berbizier, the France coach, started looking towards 1995 and the World Cup rather than worrying about 1992, cast a long shadow even over a player who has 34 caps and a French record of 337 points to his credit.

Last year, Camberabero, whose international career began in 1982, felt the pain of rejection sufficiently to announce his retirement from international rugby. He preferred to concentrate on Béziers, his club.

This from the player whose all-round leadership brought France to the verge of the grand slam in 1991. England may have won the epic decider at Twickenham 21-19 but they were outscored by three tries to one. Camberabero laid on the perfect cross kick for Philippe Saint-André to score one of Twickenham's most memorable tries. He scored the second himself and, besides offering an educated boot, showed the confidence to take on the England defence ball in hand.



Camberabero: under pressure

His sense of anticipation, timing and speed will not easily be forgotten and earned the admiration of a crowd desperately hoping for an England success.

Camberabero has something of the ability of all those great French stand-offs of the past yet it counted for nothing after the 1991 World Cup. "Obviously, I was unhappy," he said. "I was playing very well but suddenly, without a word, I was cut out. I became a non-person.

"It is true that, at the beginning of the previous season, before the game against Wales, I was injured. But I was ready for action within two weeks. I was consistently ignored thereafter and, by the end of last year, after the South Africa series, I lost all hope.

"My recall came out of the blue," he said. "After the defeat against Argentina, my name started being mentioned in the newspapers again.

"One day, the phone rang and Berbizier asked me to come to a squad session. I had a frank discussion with him and the chief selector, Guy Laporte, at the end of which they asked me whether I was prepared to play for France again. I said yes without hesitation."

It may be significant that the change in the selection hierarchy that followed the debacle against Argentina coincided with Camberabero's recall. Laporte, who won the last of his caps at stand-off the year before Camberabero won the first of his, became chairman with the demise of Robert Paparemborde.

He may have offered a greater appreciation of Camberabero's skills, though controversy remains in France as to his ability.

The son of a famous rugby playing father — Guy, who played in the first France team to win a grand slam, in 1968 — his supporters contend nobody brings out the ability of a backline better. His detractors claim he is selfish.

The events at Twickenham three weeks ago stoked the fires. He was heavily criticised for trying to outkick Rob Andrew and ignoring the attacking skills of his threequarters. That both France centres left the field injured is conveniently overlooked.

"I may have made the odd mistake here and there but, in general, I believe we played the right game in London," he said. "It will be different against Scotland. We kicked in London, we run in Paris." Scotland may bear the brunt of Camberabero's, and France's, frustration.

GOLF

Faldo stays cool as others wilt in heat

FROM MEL WEBB IN SINGAPORE

ON A day to test the endurance of the hardiest, it was somehow appropriate that of four players sharing the lead on 67 after the first round of the Johnnie Walker Classic yesterday, one was the inevitable Nick Faldo, the strongest and fittest of the lot.

With others wilting and melting in the 86F heat and 90 per cent humidity at the Singapore Island Country Club — Martin Gates retired after nine holes claiming he was "fried out" — the ramrod straightness never left Faldo's back as he finished on three under par with Darren Clarke, Peter Senior, of Australia, and Boonchu Ruangkit, of Thailand.

Faldo's only concession to the sweltering conditions was a couple of sips of mineral water after every shot. That apart, he was coolness itself — to look at him, he might have been taking a gentle stroll on an English spring morning.

He has been fine-tuning his swing this week under the magisterial eye of Mitchell Spearman, an acolyte of David Leadbetter. "In Dubai my drive was 80 yards off line," he said. "I feel a lot more comfortable now. I'm very pleased — I'm playing far better than I was last week."

He dropped shots on each of the first two holes, but got one of them back when he hit a four-iron to two feet on the 11th. His golf thus far had been little more than ordinary, but he finished impressively with four birdies in the last six holes, holing long putts on the 13th, 14th and 16th.

On a day when only 11 players beat par, many having trouble on the grainy, Bermuda grass greens that became increasingly unpredictable as the day went on, Ian Woosnam had a 71, the same score as Severiano Ballesteros and Greg Norman, and Fred Couples a 73. Mark Davis, the Essex professional, was disqualified for signing for an incorrect score.

Ruangkit, the darkest of dark horses, is a former professional Thai kick-boxing champion and was the victim of a small joke by Norman. "He'll be here on Saturday," Norman said. "Sixty-five and Thais make the cut, don't they?"

Ruangkit, 37, who had six birdies and three bogeys, was sixteenth in this tournament last year, is the Thai Open champion, and has won tournaments in each of the past two weeks in Thailand. Biographical details are in order — he may not get another chance this week.

A final time check. Players from nearly 30 nations are performing here this week. One of their number was disqualified yesterday for turning up late. His name is Bill Fung, and he comes, not from Chile or Canada, but from Singapore. His excuse was not accepted.

☐ **Nairobi:** Anders Haglund, of Sweden, and Bobby Lincoln, of South Africa, led the Kenya Open after scoring four-under-par 67s yesterday.

Lincoln mastered the dry but fast course at Muthaiga Club in early morning and played with impressive accuracy. His compatriot, John Bland, dropped shots on the 2nd and 3rd holes but fought back to become one of eight players to score 68. *(AFP)*

SCORES

GB and Ire unless stated

67: D Clarke, P Senior (Aus), N Faldo, B Ruangkit (Thai) 68: J Hawkes (SA), T C Chen (Taiwan), C Montgomerie 69: M A Jimenez (Sp), Choi Sang-Ho (Kor), R Mackenzie (Chile), T Hamilton (US) 70: Hseih Chin-Sheng (Taiwan), S Ginn (Aus), A Johnstone (Zim), F Minoza (Phil), P McGinley, S Grappasonni (It), C Rocca (It), B Lane, R Davis (Aus), S Richardson 71: R Winchester, T Harding (US), R Chapman, G Turner (NZ), S Tinning (Den), R Allenby (Aus), C Masson, C McClellan (US), W Westner (SA), E Els (SA), S Ballesteros (Sp), C Parry (Aus), I Aoki (Japan), A Forsbrand (Swe), D Cooper, G Norman (Aus), I Woosnam, B Lang (Aus) 72: M Clayton (Aus), M Hallberg (Swe), M Acbi (US), P Teravainen (US), M Mackenzie, P Baker, I Palmer (SA), V Singh (Fiji), W Riley (Aus), G Day (US), O Sellberg (Swe), G Brand Jr



Pole position: Anita Wachter, of Austria, conquered high winds and gusting snow to confirm her status as favourite for the women's combined title at the world skiing championships in Morioka, Japan, yesterday. Wachter, the 1988 Olympic champion, set the fastest overall time in the slalom of 1min 08.88sec, but second-placed Miriam Vogt, of Germany, was close behind with the speed race still to come.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 36

PLING
(a) US slang, to beg, to beg from (someone), orig. unknown: 1913 "The other one will make a good assistant for me in plinging." "It meant for James McDonald that he had become an apprentice for Kansas Shorty, the Plinger — a begging tramp."

TONADILLA
(b) A light operatic interlude of the mid-eighteenth to early-nineteenth centuries, originally forming an intermezzo between the acts of a serious play or opera, but later performed independently, diminutive of the Spanish *tonada* a tune or song: 1830 "The tonadilla, originally a simple and popular song, sung in the *Zarzuela* and *Saynette*, now frequently represents an entire action, consisting of a whole scene, or even of an act."

DOPPIE
(b) A grape-skin, diminutive of the Afrikaans *dop*: "If you fell into a tank among the doppies — the skins — you died." "A Grape Crusher and two Wine and Doppies Pumps manufactured by Consani's for the Wine Industry."

MIGMA
(c) A mixture of solid and molten rock, from the Greek *mignunai* to mix: "The migma, if the amount of its liquid portion become great enough, would flow and could intrude itself into its surroundings in typical eruptive or intrusive fashion." "In the root parts of the folded mountains a migma is formed that corresponds to the magma of the higher levels."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

Solution: 2 hxg3? would be revealed as a catastrophic blunder after 2 ...Qh5 mate!

SPORT IN BRIEF

League trial blocks Pilgrim's progress

THE progress of Steve Pilgrim, 25, the Wasps and England B full back, has been halted in rugby union, for a year at least, after he infringed his amateur status by playing a rugby league trial for Leeds (Christopher Irvine writes). The Headingley club is by no means certain yet whether it wants to sign him.

Pilgrim, who yesterday claimed ignorance of international board rules as his defence, faces an uncertain future. It will be 12 months before he can apply to play union again, even though he received no payment for playing in the Leeds Alliance side on Tuesday night. "He has not read the regulations. These are quite clear," Dudley Wood, secretary of the Rugby Football Union, said.

A mid-summer start to the 1993-4 season, with the county cup competitions kicking off a lengthier programme of nine months on August 15, heralds the probable demise of the rugby league Charity Shield. The League Council, the professional game's ruling body, has said that it is suspending the Charity Shield for a year because of fixture congestion.

Speak defies bowlers

CRICKET: The Lancashire batsman, Nick Speak, still smarting at his omission from the England A touring party, made his point by helping to deprive them of an expected victory against Australian Capital Territory (ACT) in Canberra yesterday. Speak scored 120 in 5½ hours, defying the bowlers who had routed his side for 65 in the first innings, after which they had followed on 314 in arrears. At their second attempt, ACT scored 361 for seven.

Pakistan won the Sharjah Trophy by beating Sri Lanka by 144 runs yesterday. Rameez Raja and Saeed Anwar, who both scored centuries, put on 204 for the first wicket as Pakistan scored 281 for three in their 41 overs. Sri Lanka replying with 167 for seven.

Reynolds returns

ATHLETICS: Butch Reynolds, the 400 metres world record-holder, returns to the track tomorrow when he competes at Madison Square Garden in the Millrose Games, the first important American meeting of the indoor grand prix season. The race will be Reynolds's first since the United States Olympic trials last June, when he needed an order from the Supreme Court to allow him to participate after the International Amateur Athletic Federation refused to lift a ban imposed when Reynolds tested positive for steroids in Monte Carlo in 1990, despite his insistence that the test was flawed. The 2½-year suspension on Reynolds, 28, ended on December 31.

French compromise

MOTOR RACING: The French Grand Prix, struck off the 1993 calendar because of a national law banning cigarette advertising, should take place after all, Jean-Marie Balestre, president of the French Motor Sports Federation said yesterday. He is applying for the race to be reinstated at Magny-Cours now that anti-tobacco lobbyists have dropped their action against the Williams team.
Although cars will have to be free of cigarette advertising, they will be allowed to race with the colours of their sponsors. The French government is providing compensation this year for sports which have been badly affected by the change in the law.

Valuable win for Bates



TENNIS: Jeremy Bates, right, reached the quarter-finals of the Dubai Duty Free/BMW Open yesterday, by beating Joao Cunha-Silva, of Portugal, 3-6, 6-3, 6-3 in near impossible conditions (Alix Ramsay writes). A sandstorm blew clouds of fine grit and dust across the court as Bates battled through to earn valuable ranking points and qualify for a prize of at least $29,000 (£20,000).

Hotbed of success

SCHOOLS SPORT: Celebrating British tennis success has become almost commonplace at Reed's School in Cobham, which has just toasted James Baily, its third champion in little over a year (Chris Dighton writes). Baily became the first Briton in 28 years to win a junior grand slam title when he beat Steven Downs, of New Zealand, in Melbourne on Sunday. Baily joins the Reed's scroll of honour that includes Jamie Delgado, the 1991 under-14 Orange Bowl champion and Tim Henman, holder of the national under-18 title. Delgado's younger brother, Johnny, who could be at Reed's for the next school year, is waiting in the wings. His potential is rated even higher than his brother's.

Hendry hopes to rediscover lost confidence

Phil Yates attempts to untangle the reasons for Stephen Hendry's strange loss of form

In August, when Stephen Hendry set himself a target of ten tournament wins during the season that was about to begin, few thought it to be an unrealistic goal. Five months, and numerous defeats later, Hendry is now trying to work out why his plans have gone so badly wrong.

After winning ten consecutive frames to recover from a seemingly hopeless position to beat Jimmy White 18-14 in the final of the world championship last year, Hendry had cause for optimism. Having taken over from Steve Davis as the game's most dominant force, he had an aura of invincibility.

However, inspired opponents, ill fortune, death threats and, most significant of all, a gradual loss of confidence, have all conspired against the Scot. Rather than rule the roost, as expected, his solitary tournament win did not arrive until mid-January and, then, only in the European Challenge — a minor invitation event in France.

It was a widely held opinion that Hendry's triumph in France would unlock the door to success in the glut of competitions in which he is engaged between now and the defence of his world title in April. The theory was shown to be defective by Hendry's 5-3 defeat against Nigel Bond in the last 16 of the Regal Welsh Open ten days ago following another strangely subdued display.

The Benson and Hedges Masters, which starts its eight-day run at Wembley Conference Centre on Sunday, should provide an answer as to whether Hendry's problem stems from a lack of motivation. Apart from the general financial carrot of a £110,000 first prize, Hendry will have a number of personal incentives.

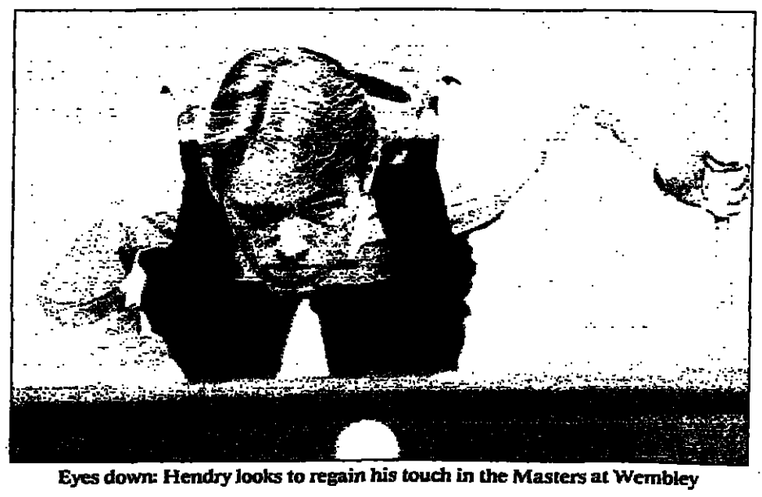
Since making his debut at the Masters in 1988, Hendry has never been beaten. He has won 16 matches in the snooker circuit's largest and most daunting auditorium and the sponsors have announced that Hendry will be allowed to keep the gold trophy should his monopoly be extended to a fifth year.

If he required any additional incentive to prove that he remains the game's leading exponent, it came with the publication of the latest professional world rankings on Wednesday. For the first time since he superseded Alex Higgins as the youngest world champion in May 1990, he has surrendered first place.

His replacement, Jimmy White, winner of the Rothmans grand prix and UK championship this season, is level on 32,450 points with Hendry but takes over the No. 1 position after scoring more points than him during the present campaign.

John Parrott is just 50 points behind the leading pair while Alan McManus, of Scotland, has moved up to fourth place from thirteenth after collecting more points than any other player this season. The slide of Steve Davis, the six-time former world champion, continued with his drop to sixth.

There exists no obvious malfunction in Hendry's game. He is cueing as sweetly as ever in practice and has compiled 12 century breaks in competition since September.



Eyes down: Hendry looks to regain his touch in the Masters at Wembley

At the inevitable press conference post mortems, after his surprise early-season defeats, Hendry verbally dissected individual parts of his game's anatomy in an effort to isolate faults.

When he lost 9-8 to Parrott in the Dubai Classic final, "sloppy" safety play was blamed.

He was heavily critical of his concentration during the grand prix and of his long potting after being beaten by McManus in the UK quarter-finals.

Only recently has he offered no explanation for defeat other than an all-encompassing loss of confidence.

If self-belief is at the heart of Hendry's problems, as all the evidence suggests, predicting when, or if, his former dominance will be regained is an impossible task.

In the short term, success at the Masters could depend on whether his resolve to end the alarming slump, and the extra burden of pressure this will create, works as a positive or negative influence.

LEADING WORLD RANKINGS (England unless stated) 1, J White, 32,450pts; 2, S Hendry (Scot), 32,450; 3, J Parrott, 32,400, 4, A McManus (Scot), 29,000; 5, J Wattana (Thai), 28,850, 6, S Davis, 28,100, 7, T Griffiths (Wales), 26,800, 8, W Thorne, 25,400, 9, N Bond, 24,550, 10, K Doherty (Ire), 24,320

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Campaign stepped up to persuade Jockey Club to alter course

Jockeys urge rethink on whip issue

RACING'S rulers were yesterday warned that controversial proposals to limit the use of the whip would sound the starting bell for the rapid decline of British racing.

The Jockeys' Association insisted that recommendations to restrict riders to a maximum of five blows were illogical and should not be introduced simply to appease a small minority of the public.

Stepping up its campaign to reverse the proposed changes, the Jockeys' Association yesterday published its comments and amendments submitted by the secretary, Michael Caulfield, to the Jockey Club last month.

The stewards of the Jockey Club will consider the whip issue on Monday, when it is expected to endorse the disciplinary committee's recommendations. However, Caulfield argues there is still time for a rethink.

Jockeys were represented on the working group which examined the whip guidelines, but the final report submitted to the disciplinary committee disregarded their views.

Caulfield was particularly alarmed by proposals to reduce the "trigger mechanism" from ten strokes to five.

"The revised trigger mechanism is nothing more than a figure plucked from the sky and no one is able to give one logical reason for reducing it," he said.

"The simplistic decision was taken to display to the small minority that changes were being made, which is possibly the worst reason for changing an instruction at all.

He added: "However well-intentioned the Jockey Club recommendations may be, they would sound the starting bell for the rapid decline of British racing.

"We can still claim to have the most competitive racing in the world, but for how much longer? There is time to talk again, there is no rush."

Caulfield claimed the working group, which also comprised the Jockey Club, trainers and vets, was unbalanced in its make-up and cast riders "in the role of continual offenders".

It failed to acknowledge the giant strides made by jockeys to alter their riding styles and misinterpreted statistics which suggested a considerable rise in whip abuse last year.

"The sole reason for the increase in enquiries and suspensions was that local stewards were asked to be more vigilant in 1992," he said.

"It does not follow that there was an increase in whip abuse because local stewards were paying more attention to the instruction.

Caulfield continued: "The so-called public concern on the whip is now grossly exaggerated.

"The small minority, who will never be appeased, must not be allowed to become the majority and it would be disastrous if the rules of racing were written due to unbalanced, ill-informed public opinion, supported by a small number of commentators with entrenched views."

Animal welfare organisations have already considered prosecuting riders for whip abuse but the working group was told that such action was unlikely to be successful.

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: YOUNG BENZ
(3.20 Kelso)
Next best: Bluff Knoll
(2.20 Kelso)


Caulfield: warns that controversial new whip proposals would bring about rapid decline of British racing

Henry Mann is National doubt

Henry Mann, quoted at 25-1 for the Grand National, is likely to miss the race. His trainer, Simon Christian, said yesterday: "I would like to make it clear to everyone — especially punters who might be tempted to back the horse — that Henry Mann is not a definite National runner.

He added: "The Cheltenham Gold Cup or the Ritz Club Chase are far more likely targets."

Tompkins triumphs with Cheltenham hope at Towcester

MARK Tompkins, the trainer of Champion Hurdle hopes, Halkopous and Staunch Friend, introduced another Cheltenham possible at Towcester yesterday when Glaisdale won the Drayton House Novices' Hurdle.

In spite of thick fog shrouding the course, the four-year-old's Triumph Hurdle potential was clear as he stayed on dourly to win by a length from the odds-on favourite, Martin's Lamp. The latter, attempting to gain his third course and distance win, led to the last but found the concession of 24lb too much.

Glaisdale, twice successful on the Flat for Henry Cecil, cost 33,000 guineas at Newmarket's October Sales and had reportedly schooled well.

"The weight he was getting was a big help but Glaisdale did it well and can only improve," Tompkins said afterwards.

Staunch Friend and Halkopous both performed below their best on recent runs abroad but Tompkins has now identified their problems.

"Halkopous was tested and found to have a cold on him," revealed the Newmarket trainer.

"And I wouldn't have run Staunch Friend on the hard ground in Italy if we hadn't travelled so far. Both go straight for the Champion."

In contrast, Michael Jackson, the owner of Morley Street, is keen to get a run into his horse before the Festival. He is to walk the course at Sandown today to establish whether the ground is suitable for the former champion hurdler.

Connections are hopeful that conditions, at present good to soft and soft in places, will enable the horse to make his first appearance for two months in tomorrow's Agfa Hurdle.

Morley Street, well beaten by Halkopous in the Bula Hurdle in December, missed two valuable races last week, the Wyko Hurdle and AIG Europe Champion Hurdle in Ireland, when the ground was ruled too testing.

But Jonathan Geake, assistant to the trainer, Toby Balding, said yesterday: "We want to run. The going is generally good to soft, which is more or less what we have been looking for.

"Mr Jackson will be looking to see what the ground is like in the home straight. Provided he is happy, he will run. Richard Dunwoody is able to ride him."

The Richard Hannon-trained Gran Alba (Simon McNeill), Mole Board (Carl Llewellyn) and Ruling (Mark Dwyer) are likely to be among his opponents.

Hall keeps quest for title in the family

By Richard Eaton

THE attempt by Darren Hall, the top seed, to achieve a new record of men's singles titles at the BVC England national badminton championships in the next three days should be a celebration of one of the most remarkable coaching relationships in the game. The man helping him to try for a sixth success is his cousin, Ray Stevens, with whom he shares the present record of five titles.

Hall said: "There is no jealousy in Ray and he doesn't hold any grudges. Whatever's best for me he's happy with." Hall unexpectedly lost the title to Anders Nielsen last year, the only one of the past 16 championships he has entered without Stevens's services.

A renewal, a recapture and a record could create wider ripples. Hall is the only Englishman (with respect to the improved Nielsen) likely to challenge for a medal at the world championships this season. The venue, in the centenary year of the Badminton Association of England, is the National Indoor Arena in Birmingham, and it is the most important event this country has seen. It needs Hall to do well.

He is already the only Englishman to become European men's singles champion and, this season, the first Englishman in 50 years to win the Danish Open. He has skill, speed and experience but, despite a chirpy exterior, not always enough self-confidence. Victory in Sunday's final at Norwich might do something to help that.

So might Stevens's latest advice to learn when to become more selfish: "There was a carnival around him at the last nationals. He didn't get away and prepare properly. And I don't think Darren is helped nearly enough by the English system. At training sessions he should say what he wants more strongly."

Hall said he had "90 per cent got over" hypertension, which caused him to choke and suffer from a shortage of breath during practice. He will need to avoid that other ten per cent if he is to gain revenge over Nielsen.

He will also hope that an ankle ligament injury does not bother him. And, at 27, the time has come to be stronger mentally. After all, cousin Ray knows what he's talking about.


Hall: record attempt

KELSO

THUNDERER

1.20 Roy's Dream. 1.50 Kidlaw. 2.20 Mr Boston. 2.50 Jinxy Jack. 3.20 Young Benz. 3.50 Jimmy River. 4.20 Highlandman.

Brian Beel: 3.50 Once Stung.

GOING: SOFT, GOOD TO SOFT IN PLACES SIS

1.20 TOWN ARMS AND LADHOPE INN NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE (£2,788: 2m 6f 110yd) (7 runners)

1 8401PP PIPER O'DRUMMOND 22 (CD,S) (Mrs S Bramall) Mrs S Bramall 6-11-10 A Merrigan 98
2 4-U2152 MISTER TUFTIE 34 (F,G) (I Straker) G Richards 8-11-5 G McCourt
3 P/P56-06 ROY'S DREAM 18 (F) (C Bird) S Leadbetter 10-10-12 C Hawkins 84
4 /3F2F/F BAWNRUADH 7 (G) (T Dyer) T Dyer 8-10-10 P Harley –
5 F642PP CELTIC WATERS 28 (Mrs D Thomson) Mrs D Thomson 8-10-10 C Dennis (3) 94
6 F056P3 KINNESTON 15 (Mrs C Alexander) N Alexander 9-10-8 B Storey 95
7 50/U603 STAGSHAW BELLE 20 (Mrs J Straker) Mrs S Bradburne 9-10-8 P Williams (7) 87

BETTING: 4-7 Mister Tuftie, 11-2 Stagshaw Belle, 7-1 Celtic Waters, 10-1 Roy's Dream, 12-1 others.

1992: MEETING ABANDONED - FROST

FORM FOCUS

PIPER O'DRUMMOND, pulled up latest two starts, previously beat Break The Chain 3½l in 13-runner novice chase over course and distance (good to soft) with KINNESTON (16lb better off) 13¾l 6th and ROY'S DREAM (12lb better off) tailed off. MISTER TUFTIE 8l 2nd of 14 to Candy Tuft in Ayr (3m 1f, good) novice chase with PIPER O'DRUMMOND (5lb worse off). CELTIC WATERS (2lb worse off) and KINNESTON (5lb better off) all pulled up. KINNESTON 10¾l 3rd of 10 to Folk Dance in Ayr (3m 1f, soft) claiming chase. STAGSHAW BELLE 9l 3rd of 7 to Kandabil in Newcastle (2m, good to soft) handicap chase.
Selection: MISTER TUFTIE

1.50 SPORT OF KINGS CLASSIC RACEWEAR NOVICES HURDLE (£2,136: 2m 110yd) (19 runners)

1 435-211 KIDLAW 50 (CD,F,S) (J Walby) P Cheesbrough 5-11-10 C Grant 85
2 06 ARAGON AYR 34 (W Monteith) P Monteith 5-11-4 M Moloney 70
3 84-0P ASTRALEON 90 (A Dunlop) R Allan 5-11-4 B Storey –
4 0 BEACH PATROL 30 (A Batey) A Batey 5-11-4 J Murphy (7) –
5 P30 HURRICANE HORACE 66 (P Piller) P Cheesbrough 5-11-4 A Larnach (5) 88
6 4/ LINKSIDE 995 (Linkside Fabrications Ltd) D Moffatt 8-11-4 D J Moffatt (5) –
7 /0/U/P MIXIES JIM 93 (D Swindlehurst) D Swindlehurst 10-11-4 Mr D Swindlehurst –
8 0 OPERATION WOLF 10 (Full Circle Thoroughbreds H Plc) N Tinkler 7-11-4 G McCourt –
9 0 THE TARTAN DYER 85 (Edinburgh Woollen Mill Ltd) G Richards 6-11-4 N Doughty –
10 0604- WATSON HOUSE 319 (Mrs C Smith) B Mactaggart 5-11-4 C Dennis (3) 63
11 126 PALACEGATE KING 39 (D,S) (C Whitfans) A Whillans 4-11-0 D Bentley (5)
12 0/F0/0 CROESONEN 71 (Mrs A D Paterson) G Richards 9-10-13 D Byrne –
13 FLAME OF ARAGON 1371F (A Thurgood) W Kemp 7-10-13 S McDougall (7) –
14 26 LITTLE BROMLEY 6 (A Eubank) A Eubank 6-10-13 Mr R Hale (7) –
15 6- SRADARA 403 (T Dyer) T Dyer 5-10-13 P Harley –
16 322 KALKO 21 (BF) (M Willan) M Hammond 4-10-8 P Niven 98
17 FU OLLIVER DUCKETT 8 (Lord Zetland) P Calver 4-10-8 T Reed –
18 F WEST AUCKLAND 21 (R Chamberlain) N Chamberlain 4-10-8 J Supple (7) –
19 532 MAKE ME PROUD 6 (J Tranter) W Bentley 4-10-3 S Taylor (7) 97

BETTING: 9-4 Kalko, 5-2 Kidlaw, 6-1 Palacegate King, 8-1 Aragon Ayr, 10-1 Hurricane Horace, Operation Wolf, 12-1 Make Me Proud, 14-1 The Tartan Dyer, 16-1 others

FORM FOCUS

KIDLAW beat Westholme head in 14-runner novice hurdle over course and distance (good to soft) with ARAGON AYR (6lb better off) 28l 8th. ARAGON AYR subsequently 23¾l 6th of 12 to Majed in Ayr (2m, good) novice hurdle. HURRICANE HORACE over 37l 9th of 12 to Hudson Bay Trader in Newcastle (2m 4f, soft) novice hurdle. Previously 4½l 3rd of 17 to Hardy in Wetherby (2m, good) novice hurdle. PALACEGATE KING 18¾l 6th of 11 to Dare To Dream in grade I Chepstow (2m 110yd, soft) novice hurdle. Previously 1½l 2nd of 18 to Bold Boss in Newcastle (2m 110yd, heavy) novice hurdle with MAKE ME PROUD (1lb better off) 12¾l 5th. MAKE ME PROUD subsequently 2l 2nd of 7 to Dominant Serenade in Ayr (2m, soft) novice hurdle. KALKO ½l 2nd of 11 to Alum Bay in Edinburgh (2m, good) maiden hurdle.
Selection: PALACEGATE KING

2.20 CARLSBERG CLASSIC HANDICAP CHASE (£3,371: 3m 4f) (7 runners)

1 5-F434P STAY ON TRACKS 27 (B,F,G,S) (P Piller) P Cheesbrough 11-11-10 C Grant 95
2 P0-34P1 PLENTY CRACK 18 (G,S) (B Mactaggart) B Mactaggart 10-11-8 B Storey 95
3 111221 WHAAT FETTLE 50 (CD,G,S) (Edinburgh Woollen Mill Ltd) G Richards 8-11-5 M Moloney
4 P-341U4 BLUFF KNOLL 20 (CD,BF,F,G,S) (R Brewis) R Brewis 10-11-4 G Harker 95
5 3P4235 MR BOSTON 10 (D,F,G,S) (M Oldham) R Woodhouse 8-11-3 G McCourt 98
6 P101-P3 ABERCROMBY CHIEF 69 (S) (I Davidson) J Oliver 8-10-0 A Orkney 80
7 56540F OFF THE BRU 6 (V,G) (G Lochiel) Mrs S Bradburne 8-10-0 P Williams (7) 92

Long handicap: Abercromby Chief 9-11, Off The Bru 9-8

BETTING: 6-4 Whaat Fettle, 7-2 Bluff Knoll, 11-2 Plenty Crack, 6-1 Stay On Tracks, Mr Boston, 16-1 others.

FORM FOCUS

STAY ON TRACKS put up best effort this term when 8¾l 4th of 9 to Kildimo in Aintree (3m 3f, good to soft) handicap chase. PLENTY CRACK beat Brompton House 2l in 9-runner Carlisle (3m, heavy) handicap chase. WHAAT FETTLE beat Bold Spartan 1l in 6-runner handicap chase over course and distance (good to soft) with MR BOSTON (7lb better off) 25l 4th and BLUFF KNOLL (1lb better off) unseated rider. BLUFF KNOLL beat WHAAT FETTLE (same terms) neck in 11-runner handicap chase over course and distance (soft) in October with PLENTY CRACK (same terms) 5l 4th and OFF THE BRU (7lb better off) 15l 5th. MR BOSTON put up best effort this term when 4l 2nd of 9 to Otterburn House in Haydock (3m, soft) handicap chase with STAY ON TRACKS (1lb better off) pulled up.
Selection: BLUFF KNOLL

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
G Richards	41	153	26.8	N Doughty	29	92	31.5
N Tinkler	6	27	22.2	P Niven	30	111	27.0
Mrs J Goodfellow	7	35	20.0	G McCourt	9	36	25.0
M Hammond	10	54	18.5	M Moloney	10	44	22.7
M H Easterby	6	33	18.2	K Johnson	7	39	17.9
P Monteith	13	78	16.7	C Grant	20	116	17.2

GUIDE TO OUR RACECARD

103 (12) 0-0432 GOOD TIMES 74 (CD,BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 9-10-0 B West (4) 88

Racecard number. Draw in brackets. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing; J if jumps, F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

2.50 SHIP HOTEL MOREBATTLE HURDLE (£3,355: 2m 110yd) (6 runners)

1 5-11131 JINXY JACK 13 (CD,F,G,S) (Mrs B McKinney) G Richards 9-11-9 N Doughty
2 313104 CORNET 13 (V,D,F,G,S) (Duke of Sutherland) Denys Smith 7-11-5 C Grant –
3 3/6/6-P0 ISLAND PEARL 9 (F,G) (W Kemp) W Kemp 13-11-5 S McDougall (7) –
4 211410 SEON 6 (CD,BF,G,S) (C Hunter Ltd) W Bentley 7-11-5 N Bentley (3) 78
5 1-56218 DIZZY 15 (CD,BF,G,S) (W Manteith) P Monteith 5-11-4 P Williams (7) 74
6 8420 ABELONI 14 (W Williams) W Williams 4-10-9 D Bentley (5) 50

BETTING: 1-4 Jinxy Jack, 7-1 Seon, 12-1 Dizzy, 16-1 Cornet, 20-1 Abeloni, 100-1 Island Pearl.

FORM FOCUS

JINXY JACK beat Coulton ½l in 5-runner grade II hurdle at Haydock (2m, heavy). Bids for his third successive win in this race. CORNET 45l 4th of 7 to Ardbrin in Kempton (2m 4f 110yd, soft) handicap chase. SEON 27l last of 7 to Willie Sparkle in Ayr (2m, soft) handicap hurdle. Previously beat Fieldspole 1l in 5-runner Newcastle (2m 110y, soft) handicap hurdle. DIZZY 27¾l 6th of 7 to Ambleside Harvest in Ayr (2m 4f, soft) handicap hurdle. Previously beat Palmas Pride ¾l in 17-runner Edinburgh (2m, good) handicap hurdle. ABELONI 50l 11th of 20 to Cobin In Catterick (2m, good to soft) novice hurdle. Previously ½l 2nd of 13 to Ringland in Ayr (2m, good) novice hurdle.
Selection: JINXY JACK (nap)

3.20 BOLLINGER RUTHERFORD CHASE (£3,387: 2m 1f) (4 runners)

1 1-1P112 GALE AGAIN 27 (F,S) (P Piller) P Cheesbrough 6-11-10 C Grant 91
2 3/34431 YOUNG BENZ 13 (S) (T Bennett) M H Easterby 9-11-8 L Wyer
3 2-14230 CLAY COUNTY 6 (CD,F,G,S) (M Boyd) R Allan 8-11-2 B Storey 94
4 50/DF04 KWACHA 15 (W Williams) W Williams 7-11-2 L O'Hara –

BETTING: 11-10 Gale Again, 7-4 Young Benz, 3-1 Clay County, 33-1 Kwacha.

FORM FOCUS

GALE AGAIN 8l 2nd of 5 to Whispering Steel in Haydock (2m 4f, soft) chase. Earlier beat CLAY COUNTY (8lb better off) 5l in Newcastle (2m 110yd, soft) handicap chase. YOUNG BENZ beat Macarthur 1½l in 4-runner Haydock (2m, heavy) handicap chase. CLAY COUNTY 31l 7th of 8 to Tianyland in Doncaster (2m 110yd, good) handicap chase. KWACHA 35¾l 4th of 11 to Brackenfield in Ayr (2m 4f, soft) novice hurdle.
Selection: YOUNG BENZ

3.50 TRAVAIL EMPLOYMENT GROUP CESSFORD HUNTER CHASE (£1,968: 3m 1f) (12 runners)

1 14/2P11- FINAL CHANT 282 (C,F,G,S) (D Brydon) D Brydon 12-12-7 R H Brown (5)
2 P213- OLE OLE 256 (S) (Mrs E Moscrop) Mrs E Moscrop 7-12-7 M Armytage 70
3 231112- ONCE STUNG 252 (F,G,S) (J Greenall) P Cheesbrough 7-12-7 J Greenall (3) 96
4 511F20- PADDY HAYTON 282 (F,G,S) (Mrs M Wares) S Leadbetter 12-12-7 R Shiels (5) 86
5 U06/1F6- POLITICAL ISSUE 282 (C,S) (T Robson) T Robson 9-12-7 P Johnson (5) 96
6 BARNEY RUBBLE (D Whillans) D Whillans 8-12-0 G Robinson (7) –
7 12/2- JIMMY RIVER 343 (S) (G Winstanley) K Anderson 10-12-0 K Anderson (3) 88
8 LOVER'S LOCK (S Pittendrigh) S Pittendrigh 11-12-0 S Pittendrigh (7) –
9 F2/1U0/ RAWYARDS BRIG 872 (S) (R Bartlett) R Bartlett 10-12-0 P Graffin –
10 /210/P/ READY STEADY 707 (F,S) (Mrs P Strudwick) S Frier 11-12-0 J Grosaick (7) –
11 3- LEVEL QUAY 353 (J Barber) J Barber 10-11-9 P Williamson (7) 68
12 F00232- POLLIBRIG 300 (W Hamilton) William Hamilton 9-11-9 M Buckley (5) 74

BETTING: 9-4 Once Stung, 3-1 Final Chant, 5-1 Paddy Hayton, 5-1 Jimmy River, 8-1 Political Issue, 10-1 Pollibrig, 12-1 Level Quay, Ole Ole, 16-1 others.

FORM FOCUS

FINAL CHANT beat Steele Justice 15l in 7-runner hunter chase here (3m, good) in April with POLITICAL ISSUE 47l 6th and PADDY HAYTON 7th. ONCE STUNG beat Straight Pilot 2l in 11-runner Wetherby (3m 110yd, good to firm) hunter chase with OLE OLE (3lb worse off) 8l 3rd. JIMMY RIVER 2l 2nd of 6 to Mount Argus in Haydock (3m, good to soft) hunter chase with PADDY HAYTON 31½l 5th. LEVEL QUAY 5l 3rd to subsequently disqualified Deep Spartacus in Sedgefield (2m 4f, good to soft) maiden hunter chase.
Selection: FINAL CHANT

4.20 EBF PETER AND GILLIAN ALLAN NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (Qualifier: £2,178: 2m 2f) (16 runners)

1 30-1202 LEADING PROSPECT 60 (CD,BF,G) (J Goodfellow) Mrs J Goodfellow 6-11-5 B Storey
2 545024 BACK BEFORE DAWN 21 (J Pirie) P Monteith 6-11-0 L O'Hara 89
3 525/ DEEP DECISION 820 (A Calms) P Cheesbrough 7-11-0 K Johnson –
4 3-55 FULL O'PRAISE 20 (Lord Zetland) P Calver 6-11-0 T Reed 79
5 30/4-F66 GRAZEMBER 13 (Mrs M Ashby) R Earnshaw 6-11-0 C Grant 79
6 0-624F3 HIGHLANDMAN 50 (Mrs H Fraser) J Haldane 7-11-0 A Merrigan 91
7 11- KENILWORTH LAD 330 (F,S) (D Bell) Mrs M Reveley 5-11-0 P Niven –
8 MISTER JOE (Mrs J Clarke) S Payne 5-11-0 J Supple (7) –
9 VERBAL WARNING (A Batey) A Batey 5-11-0 J Murphy (7) –
10 0040-60 BRIGHT POLLY 9 (Mrs A Shaw) J Haldane 7-10-9 N Leach (7) 68
11 0 CARNETTO 20 (Mrs R Brewis) R Brewis 5-10-9 G Harker 78
12 0-000 CHICKABIDDY 28 (J Prideaux) J Oliver 5-10-9 G Thomson (7) –
13 00 PETTICOAT RULE 119 (J Walton) F Walton 5-10-9 Mr A Robson –
14 000-P00 SOUND PROFIT 55 (W Young) W Young 5-10-9 P Williams (7) –
15 P0 SUPREME BLUSHER 9 (A Gillie) W Kemp 5-10-9 L Wyer –
16 00 THE WHIRLIE WEEVIL 60 (Mrs D Waugh) G Richards 5-10-9 G McCourt –

BETTING: 9-4 Kenilworth Lad, 7-2 Leading Prospect, 9-2 Full O'Praise, 6-1 Highlandman, 8-1 Back Before Dawn, 12-1 Carnetto, Deep Decision, The Whirlie Weevil, 20-1 others.

FORM FOCUS

LEADING PROSPECT ¾l 2nd of 14 to Rexy Boy in Edinburgh (2m 4f, soft) novice handicap hurdle. BACK BEFORE DAWN 12¾l 4th of 11 to Alum Bay in Edinburgh (2m, good) maiden hurdle. FULL O'PRAISE 16½l 5th of 16 to Arcot in Newcastle (2m 110yd, good to soft) novice hurdle with CARNETTO 20½l 7th. GRAZEMBER 28l 6th of 10 to Lo Stregone in Haydock (2m 4f, heavy) novice hurdle. HIGHLANDMAN 3½l 3rd of 14 to Kidlaw in novice hurdle here (2m 110yd, good to soft). KENILWORTH LAD beat Chio And Ettie 5l in 7-runner Hexham (1m 4f, soft) National Hunt Flat race in March.
Selection: FULL O'PRAISE

LINGFIELD PARK

THUNDERER

2.00 Damier Blanc. 2.30 Hawthorn Blaze. 3.00 Midnight Caller. 3.30 Solid Steel. 4.00 Mandraki Shuffle. 4.30 WOODURATHER (nap).

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 3.30 SOLID STEEL.

Brian Beel: 4.00 Fifth Amendment.

GOING: SOFT (HEAVY PATCHES) SIS

2.00 ORPINGTON NOVICES HURDLE (£1,675: 2m 110yd) (7 runners)

1 /502 MASROUG 4 A Moore 5-11-2 G Moore
2 0 LITTLETON LULLABY 30 B Meehan 8-10-11 H Davies
3 -40U OUT'N'OUT 8 J Jenkins 5-10-11 R Dunwoody
4 BALLYMONEYBOY 25F M Tompkins 4-10-7 S Smith Eccles
5 0 CHINAMAN 18 W Wightman 4-10-7 M Richards
6 DAMIER BLANC 62F (B) M Pipe 4-10-7 P Scudamore
7 ARCADIAN PRINCESS 211F B Byford 4-10-2 J McLaughlin

4-5 Damier Blanc, 6-4 Ballymoneyboy, 10-1 Masroug, 16-1 Arcadian Princess, 20-1 Chinaman, Out'N'Out, 33-1 Littleton Lullaby.

2.30 MANIFESTO NOVICES CHASE (£2,595: 2m 4f 110yd) (4)

1 /06 BILLYBITME 46 P Hedger 6-11-4 E McKinley
2 4-11 HAWTHORN BLAZE 32 (G,S) M Pipe 7-11-4 P Scudamore
3 1323 SWITCH 13 (G,S) C Brooks 7-11-4 NON-RUNNER
4 /000 VODKA FIZZ 22 (S) J Gifford 8-11-4 P Hide (5)

1-8 Hawthorn Blaze, 7-1 Vodka Fizz, 12-1 Billybitme.

3.00 JERRY M HANDICAP CHASE (£3,106: 3m) (7)

1 -11F MIDNIGHT CALLER 35 (CD,BF,S) S Sherwood 7-11-10 J Osborne
2 -200 MISTER HARTIGAN 11 (D,S) J Edwards 13-11-4 N Williamson
3 -460 MISTER CHRISTIAN 22 (B,G,S) P Nicholls 12-11-3 M A Fitzgerald
4 015F BIG BEN DUN 4 (S) J Upson 7-10-9 R Supple
5 2503 POPESWOOD 11 (S) W Wightman 10-10-2 A Maguire
6 FF3- BAYRAM 289 (D,G,S) T Etherington 11-10-1 M Richards
7 -5P4 ANOTHER TROUP 11 (B,D,F,G) R Townsend 11-10-0 P Holley

5-4 Midnight Caller, 5-2 Big Ben Dun, 6-1 Popeswood, 8-1 Bayram, 10-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: M Pipe, 9 winners from 35 runners, 25.7%; J Edwards, 3 from 13, 23.1%; O Sherwood, 6 from 27, 22.2%; D Grissell, 4 from 30, 13.3%. Only qualifiers

JOCKEYS: P Scudamore, 9 winners from 34 rides, 26.5%; J Osborne, 5 from 22, 22.7%; D Murphy, 4 from 24, 16.7%; H Davies, 9 from 57, 15.8%; M Perrett, 6 from 42, 14.3%. Only qualifiers

3.30 SANDERSTED NOVICES CLAIMING HURDLE (£1,704: 2m 3f 110yd) (10)

1 /5-0 MR LE MOSS 13 M Pipe 7-11-8 P Scudamore
2 -51F EASBY HOPES 20 (B,G) S Kettlewell 7-11-5 R Garritty
3 0600 FOTOEXPRESS 20 R Rowe 5-10-13 T Grantham
4 1144 SOLID STEEL 17 (G,S) A Moore 5-10-10 G Moore
5 6154 TAPESTRY DANCER 100 (G) M Haynes 5-10-10 M Perrett
6 0460 BORRETO 28 C James 9-10-7 I Williams (7)
7 /0U4 BRIGHTLING BOY 11 D Grissell 8-10-7 Peter Hobbs
8 3/ MONA'S PRINCE 844 D Wilson 6-10-7 D Murphy
9 U3-0 BELLING BELLING 31 C Jones 5-10-2 M Bosley
10 -550 NEEDWOOD POPPY 7 B Morgan 5-10-2 L Harvey

7-4 Solid Steel, 4-1 Brightling Boy, 11-2 Tapestry Dancer, 6-1 Mr Le Moss, 7-1 Easby Hopes, 12-1 Fotoexpress, 14-1 Needwood Poppy, 20-1 others.

4.00 R E SASSOON MEMORIAL HUNTER CHASE (£1,161: 3m) (9)

1 P0P- COMEDY BASIN 261 (D,F) A Sims 10-12-7 R Inglesant (7)
2 P-6P FIFTH AMENDMENT 187 (B,D,F,G,S) Mrs F Walwyn 8-12-7 R Ponsonby (7)
3 12U- MANDRAKI SHUFFLE 476 (B,D,F,G) O Sherwood 11-12-7 A Harvey (7)
4 1/2/ TARTAN TRIX 809 (D,F,S) W Hacking 10-12-7 P Hacking (5)
5 640- MISHRIF 289 (S) Mrs L Baker 11-12-0 T Hills (7)
6 1/6- NAMOOS 339 (S) D McCarthy 12-12-0 T McCarthy (7)
7 4P00- PEACH LEAF 289 (G) N Pewter 12-12-0 G Pewter (7)
8 P/1- TRYUMPHANT LAD 289 (G) M Deasley 9-12-0 S Deasley (7)
9 203- WHICH WAY NOW 289 (D,G) Mrs S Clarke 12-12-0 C Newport (7)

5-4 Mandraki Shuffle, 7-2 Tartan Trix, 5-1 Fifth Amendment, 8-1 Tryumphant Lad, 10-1 Which Way Now, 14-1 Namoos, 16-1 others.

4.30 THREE COUNTIES HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,597: 2m 110yd) (6)

1 332- WOODURATHER 284F (D,G) M Pipe 7-11-11 P Scudamore
2 -326 TREE POPPY 39 (CD,G,S) C Brooks 10-11-10 NON-RUNNER
3 /214 SLEEPLINE ROYALE 6 (D,F,G,S) T Thomson Jones 7-11-8 S Smith Eccles
4 2220 GLEBELANDS GIRL 10 (D,G,S) R Rowe 6-10-5 L Dace (7)
5 22-0 CLEVER DICK 2 (D,S) A Moore 8-10-3 G Moore
6 3UF0 HATS HIGH 4 (B,D,G,S) F Gray 8-10-0 M Crosse

4-5 Woodurather, 9-4 Sleepline Royale, 7-2 Glebelands Girl, 12-1 Clever Dick, Hats High.

Rise in Festival entries

ENTRIES for the principal races at next month's Cheltenham Festival have revealed an increase on recent years.

The Smurfit Champion Hurdle has attracted 50 horses, including 14 from Ireland. The trend is similar in both the Queen Mother Champion Chase, up from 20 last year to 24, and the Tote Cheltenham Gold Cup, up from 25 to 31.

SOUTHWELL

THUNDERER

2.10 Flaba. 2.40 On Y Va. 3.10 Mr Poppleton. 3.40 Nikki Noo Noo. 4.10 Classic Account. 4.40 Strip Cartoon.

GOING: STANDARD SIS

DRAW: 6F-1M, LOW NUMBERS BEST

2.10 NEW BALDERTON APPRENTICE CLAIMING STAKES (£2,322: 1m) (8 runners)

1 363- BOWDEN BOY 137 (B,BF,F,G,S) B Preece 5-9-9 E Husband (3) 8
2 0-0 LIVE AND LET FLY 11 S Kettlewell 4-8-13 S Mulvey (3) 1
3 20-6 CREPT OUT 4 (F) J Harris 4-8-8 S D Williams 3
4 010- SEASIDE MINSTREL 99J (F,G) R Manning 5-8-8 A Tucker 4
5 035/ FLABA 832 (G) W Haggas 5-8-1 Sally Radford-Howes (3) 7
6 4200 NORTH FLYER 6 D Burchell 4-7-12 Stephen Davies 6
7 00-8 TOP ONE 25 (F) C Hill 8-7-12 F Norton 5
8 0-36 SOL ROUGE 11 R Thompson 4-7-10 Nicola Howarth (3) 2

15-8 Flaba, 11-4 Top One, 11-2 Seaside Minstrel, 6-1 Bowden Boy, 8-1 North Flyer, 10-1 Crept Out, 20-1 others.

2.40 HALAM HANDICAP (£2,364: 7f) (10)

1 -033 BOY MARTIN 14 (B,F) S Kettlewell 4-10-0 S D Williams (3) 8
2 3-22 ON Y VA 11 (CD,BF,S) R Williams 6-9-7 J Quinn 2
3 000- BEATLE SONG 158 (C,F,G) R Hodges 5-8-7 S Drowne (7) 4
4 2443 DIAMOND INTHE DARK 11 (V,F) C Tinkler 5-9-1 D Pears (5) 5
5 0-13 QUINZII MARTIN 7 (V,CD) D Haydn Jones 5-8-12 J Williams 6
6 -010 COMPANY CASH 11 (B,CD) R Bastiman 5-8-12 Dean McKeown 9
7 004- DOESYOUDOES 36 Mrs V Aconley 4-8-10 T Williams 1
8 5430 THE DREAM MAKER 11 (C) Mrs N Macauley 4-8-7 M Humphries (7) 10
9 20-2 KALAR 11 (C) D Chapman 4-8-2 S Wood 3
10 000- BLYTON STAR 65 S Bowring 5-7-8 N Adams 7

4-1 Quinzii Martin, 5-1 Kalar, 11-2 Company Cash, On Y Va, 7-1 Boy Martin, Diamond Inthe Dark, 10-1 Doesyoudoes, 11-1 Beatle Song, 14-1 others.

3.10 MANSFIELD HANDICAP (£2,658: 1m 4f) (12)

1 040- VERY EVIDENT 9J (B) R O'Leary 4-9-10 D Nicholls 1
2 800- MR POPPLETON 36J D Arbuthnot 4-9-4 W Ryan 5
3 000- ROCK LEGEND 14J (F) D Shaw 5-9-0 K Rutter (5) 2
4 055- LEXUS 149 R Williams 5-8-13 J Quinn 6
5 003- SECRET TREATY 36 R Manning 4-8-13 D Wright (7) 10
6 /0/0 GEE DOUBLE YOU 7 (F) D Haydn Jones 7-8-13 J Williams 12
7 0-01 KRONPRINZ 14 (CD) M Chapman 5-8-5 D McCabe (7) 9
8 0-06 CAL'S BOY 7 (B) J Smith 4-8-3 R Lappin 11
9 60-4 SWAGMAN 10J (CD) B Richmond 6-8-3 Stephen Davies (5) 8
10 0-00 COMISKEY PARK 18 D Chapman 4-8-2 S Wood 4
11 14-0 HEIR OF EXCITEMENT 14 (CD,F) A Stringer 8-8-2 F Norton (3) 7
12 /0-0 RUPPLES 8J M Chapman 6-7-10 Darren Moffatt (7) 3

4-1 Kronprinz, 11-2 Rock Legend, 6-1 Mr Poppleton, Swagman, 7-1 Lexus, Secret Treaty, 8-1 Heir Of Excitement, 10-1 Comiskey Park, 20-1 others.

3.40 OLD CLIPSTONE CLAIMING STAKES (3-Y-O: £2,259: 1m) (8)

1 0- BIG-W 39 Ronald Thompson 9-0 R P Elliott 8
2 56-5 BALLACASCADE 32 P Haslam 8-4 Dean McKeown 4
3 0 BUDBY PRINCESS 11 R Marvin 8-3 T Williams 7
4 1312 NIKKI NOO NOO 11 (C,F) C Hill 8-1 G Bardwell 6
5 00-4 DON'T BE SAKI 18 Ronald Thompson 7-13 L Charnock 5
6 00- QUICK VICTORY 141 M Britain 7-13 J Marshall (7) 3
7 -484 HOTSOCKS 6 Pat Mitchell 7-10 Kim McDonnell (7) 2
8 0 KUTE LUCY 25 D Chapman 7-10 S Wood 1

5-4 Nikki Noo Noo, 3-1 Don't Be Saki, 5-1 Ballacascade, Hotsocks, 20-1 others.

4.10 GAMSTON HANDICAP (£2,259: 2m) (7)

1 401- GREEN LANE 130 (F,G,S) M Naughton 5-9-10 Dean McKeown 7
2 0-61 COLERIDGE 7J (B,D,F,G) D Shaw 5-9-6 K Rutter (5) 6
3 42-2 CLASSIC ACCOUNT 7 (S) Mrs V Aconley 5-9-4 S Mulvey (7) 3
4 2-54 MINGUS 7 (S) R Fisher 6-8-4 J Fanning 1
5 3310 BEDOUIN PRINCE 4 (B,C,BF) B Richmond 6-8-3 Stephen Davies (5) 2
6 2421 MASTER'S CROWN 7 (C) M Chapman 5-8-1 (5ex) D McCabe (7) 4
7 04-2 LAFKADIO 3J (CD,F) M Chapman 6-7-10 S Wood 5

3-1 Coleridge, 7-2 Classic Account, 4-1 Lafkadio, 9-2 Master's Crown, 6-1 Green Lane, 8-1 Bedouin Prince, 10-1 Mingus.

4.40 LANGFORD HANDICAP (£2,553: 6f) (15)

1 00-0 ARC LAMP 35 (C,F,G) J Glover 7-10-0 S D Williams (3) 2
2 01-0 ROCKBOURNE 22 (G) Mrs J Cecil 4-9-13 W Ryan 6
3 -640 JOVIAL KATE 11 (CD,BF) B Ellison 6-9-11 T Williams 7
4 620- MORPICK 164 (CD) J Leigh 6-9-11 Stephen Davies (5) 13
5 101- SUPREME DESIRE 92 (G,S) A Smith 5-9-11 S Webster 1
6 03-0 QUATRE FEMME 34 (F) M Johnston 6-9-10 Dean McKeown 14
7 5664 TOSHIBA COMET 6 (B,CD,F,G,S) Pat Mitchell 6-9-9 J Quinn 3
8 5-06 STRIP CARTOON 11 (B,CD,S) S Bowring 5-9-7 N Adams 8
9 0-44 EMERALD EARS 11 (G) R Hodges 4-8-10 S Drowne (7) 15
10 00-0 CHOICE LOT 14 (V,F) T Caldwell 6-8-9 D Wright (7) 9
11 00-6 PAINT THE WIND 7 (B,G) R Fisher 3-8-8 J Fanning 12
12 000- HITCHIN A RIDE 135 (G) M Muggeridge 6-8-8 J Williams 4
13 000- LONG LAST 258 D Chapman 4-8-8 S Wood 10
14 50-5 MISS BELL RINGER 11 (F) C Hill 5-8-6 G Bardwell 11
15 06-2 LAST STRAW 7 A Jones 5-8-4 Claire Balding (7) 5

5-1 Last Straw, 6-1 Arc Lamp, 7-1 Emerald Ears, 10-1 Toshiba Comet, Strip Cartoon, 12-1 Quatre Femme, Rockbourne, 16-1 Jovial Kate, 20-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: C Hill, 19 winners from 108 runners, 17.6%; W Haggas, 7 from 40, 17.5%; C Tinkler, 10 from 78, 12.8%; D Burchell, 5 from 42, 11.9%; B Ellison, 4 from 34, 11.8%; A Stringer, 3 from 27, 11.1%.

JOCKEYS: D McCabe, 4 winners from 14 rides, 28.6%; Stephen Davies, 4 from 27, 14.8%; D Pears, 5 from 34, 14.7%; M Humphries, 6 from 45, 13.3%; R Lappin, 7 from 54, 13.0%; G Bardwell, 27 from 265, 10.2%.

Blinkered first time

SOUTHWELL: 3.10 Very Evident. 4.40 Choice Lot.

RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY'S THREE MEETINGS

Towcester

Going: soft

1.50 (2m hdle) 1, Glaisdale (S Smith Eccles, 100-30); 2, Martin's Lamp (4-6 fav); 3, Hillwalk (16-1). 9 ran. 1l, 3l. M Tompkins. Tote: £4.20; £1.50, £1.10, £2.80. DF: £3.80. CSF: £5.91

2.20 (2m 110yd ch) 1, General Merchant (R Dunwoody, 3-1 fav); 2, Radical Request (12-1); 3, Ringmore (4-1); 4, Crossotspancthil (14-1). 17 ran. NR: City Index. 6l, 3l. R Hodges. Tote £4.40; £1.80, £3.50, £2.50, £2.50. DF: £34.00. CSF £40.70. Tricast: £141.58. No bid.

2.50 (3m 1f ch) 1, Bit Of A Clown (L Harvey, 5-4 fav); 2, Knight Oil (5-1); 3, Tori (14-1). 6 ran. 1l, 20l. Mrs I McKie. Tote: £2.10; £1.50, £2.10. DF: £3.50. CSF: £8.50

3.20 (2m 5f hdle) 1, Child Of The Mist (A Maguire, 12-1); 2, Stated Case (5-2); 3, Ostura (4-1). Celcius 6-4 fav. 13 ran. 1½l, dist. J Whyte. Tote: £10.30; £2.00, £1.70, £2.00. DF: £12.60. CSF: £45.95.

3.50 (2m 6f ch) 1, Sheer Ability (B de Haan, 7-2); 2, The Widget Man (10-11 fav); 3, Joburn (8-1). 9 ran. 6l, ½l. Mrs F Walwyn. Tote: £4.10; £1.60, £1.20, £1.70. DF: £3.90. CSF: £7.36

4.20 (2m 5f hdle) 1, Cool Clown (P Scudamore, 11-8 fav); 2, La Princesse (6-4); 3, Prudent Peggy (16-1). 8 ran. 5l, 20l. M Pipe. Tote: £2.50; £1.10, £1.40. DF: £3.00. CSF: £3.65. Placepot: £14.30.

Edinburgh

Going: good, good to firm in places

2.00 (2m hdle) 1, Milliyel (D J Moffatt, 5-6 fav); 2, Cyril Henry (15-2); 3, Not Gordons (8-1). 10 ran. NR: John Naman. 5l, 1l. P Monteith. Tote: £1.90; £1.10, £1.80, £4.50. DF: £5.20. CSF: £8.24

2.30 (3m ch) 1, Classic Minstrel (T Reed, 4-1); 2, Kushbaloo (4-7 fav); 3, Itylul (9-2). 7 ran. ¾l, 10l. Mrs S Bradburne. Tote: £3.70; £1.40, £1.30. DF: £2.60. CSF: £6.47

3.00 (3m hdle) 1, Wishing Gate (C Grant, 10-11 fav); 2, New Charges (11-8); 3, Green Trix (20-1). 14 ran. 4l, 7. M Hammond. Tote: £1.80; £1.10, £1.10, £13.50. DF: £1.80. CSF: £2.58.

3.30 (2m ch) 1, Antonin (J Burke, 11-4); 2, One For The Pot (2-1 fav); 3, Khanl (10-1). 7 ran. 8l, 20l. Mrs S Bramall. Tote: £4.30; £2.50, £1.50. DF: £2.60. CSF: £7.86.

4.00 (2m 4f ch) 1, Barkisland (Mrs A Farrell, 8-1); 2, Dianes Destiny (6-1); 3, Simple Pleasure (9-4 fav). 14 ran. 1½l, 1l. P Beaumont. Tote: £6.30; £1.50, £1.80, £1.70. DF: £13.90. CSF: £64.69. Tricast: £175.06.

4.30 (2m 4f hdle) 1, Trump (B Storey, 5-2); 2, Topformer (10-1); 3, Timantaya (20-1). Rexy Boy 9-4 fav. 9 ran. Hd, 1½l. C Parker. Tote: £4.30; £1.50, £1.40, £3.30. DF: £29.10. CSF: £24.80. Tricast: £368.15.

Placepot: £13.00.

Lingfield Park

Going: standard

1.40 (1m 5f) 1, Lyph (A Tucker, 5-1); 2, Breakdancer (13-8 fav); 3, Iron Baron (10-1). 8 ran. ¾l, sh hd. P Hedger. Tote: £8.90; £2.40, £1.60, £1.10. DF: £5.00. CSF: £12.97

2.10 (7f) 1, Express Service (Emma O'Gorman, 4-6 fav); 2, Well Bought (7-2); 3, Mu-Arrik (7-1). 4 ran. NR: Othello. 3½l, nk. W O'Gorman. Tote: £1.30. DF: £3.40. CSF: £3.32.

2.40 (1m 2f) 1, Lookingforarainbow (N Day, 5-2 fav); 2, Majal (12-1); 3, Appliancedecience (8-1). 10 ran. 4l, ¾l. Bob Jones. Tote: £2.80; £1.10, £3.10, £4.10. DF: £27.80. CSF: £30.35. Tricast: £198.71.

3.10 (1m 2f) 1, Arctic Guest (T Williams, 9-1); 2, Broughtons Formula (9-2); 3, Umhambi (9-2). Diamond Lucy 11-4 fav. 11 ran. NR: Medland. 1l, 3½l. M Johnston. Tote: £11.30; £2.90, £1.50, £2.00. DF: £23.60. CSF: £46.64. Tricast: £191.02.

3.40 (1m) 1, King Parrot (J Wilkinson, 11-4); 2, Sarum (2-1 fav); 3, Queen Of Dreams (12-1). 5 ran. Sh hd, ½l. Lord Huntingdon. Tote: £2.90; £2.30, £1.10. DF: £4.20. CSF: £8.07.

4.10 (6f) 1, Nobby Barnes (Miss E Bronson, 13-2); 2, Courting Newmarket (14-1); 3, Tyrian Purple (8-1). Lyndon's Linnet 9-2 fav. 14 ran. Hd, ½l. D Wilson. Tote: £7.70; £2.40, £2.70, £2.00. DF: £42.00. CSF: £88.54. Tricast: £675.86.

Placepot: £59.60.

Antonin's first

Antonin, unplaced in ten starts over hurdles, put that form behind him when beating One For The Pot by eight lengths in the Anderson Strathern W S Novices' Chase at Edinburgh yesterday.

Kilcash out for remainder of season

KILCASH, runner-up to Glencloud in The Ladbroke Hurdle at Leopardstown last month, will not race again this season.

His trainer, Peter Hedger, said: "We thought he had pulled muscles in his quarters and would be off for a bit. But it now appears he has a hairline fracture of his near-hind foot and needs four months' complete rest. I think he did it bucking and kicking in a playpen at home."

Hedger was at Lingfield yesterday when Lyph gave him his first Flat success by landing the Hanson Claiming Stakes under Andy Tucker.

Hedger, better known as a National Hunt trainer, took out a Flat licence only a year ago and said: "Lyph seemed to lose all his enthusiasm for hurdling, so this has rejuvenated him."

Tucker brought Lyph with a strong late run to beat the favourite, Breakdancer.

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CRICKET

Spinners battle for Test places

FROM PETER BALL IN VISAKHAPATNAM

SPIN continued to dominate England's thoughts as the team began its preparations for next week's second Test match with today's game against the Rest of India at Visakhapatnam. All three England spinners went in to the game this morning knowing that they are competing for one, or at best two places, in Madras.

If the pitch there is anything like Calcutta, India are certain to go into the Test with three spinners again. There is no possibility of England doing that, but Keith Fletcher, the team manager, yesterday admitted that the selection policy of playing only one spinner in the first Test might have been mistaken. "If the Madras wicket looks similar to Calcutta, I would say we have a more balanced attack this time," Fletcher said.

That would leave Emburey, Tufnell and Salisbury competing for two places, with Hick being more than useful backup. "It would be nice to have variety," Fletcher said, in answer to a question whether he would want to play two spinners who both left the bat, "but whoever is bowling the best will play."

Even if Salisbury and Tufnell are selected, Hick's presence means that there would still be one bowler turning the ball in to the bat. Hick became the latest to go down with the virus on Wednesday, and went straight to bed when the team arrived at their hotel beside a long sandy beach on the Bay of Bengal yesterday. Although he was named in the squad for the match, he was expected to be twelfth man.

England's thoughts have been concentrated as much on dealing with the Indian spinners as getting their own trio firing on full cylinders. And that was reflected to some extent in the selection for today's match, along with the need to give the six players who missed the Test some practice. Stewart and Gatting, who have coped better than most, were given the game off, Stewart's omission giving Blakey an eagerly awaited game behind the stumps.

Gooch might also have stood down to get a rest after struggling through the Test below par but, predictably, the captain decided he wanted to play. It was generally agreed that Robin Smith not only wanted to play but also needed to, having had more problems than most in dealing with the Indian spinners.

"We've obviously talked to him about the problems a lot," Fletcher said, "but in the end a batsman has to work it out for himself, and Robin agrees that he has got a way to go when playing against spin."

Worryingly, the problems are being caused by three bowlers without any great pedigree in Test cricket. Rajesh Chauhan, the young off spinner, has emerged as an outstanding prospect, but the leg spinner, Kumble, and Raju, the left-arm slow bowler, are some way short of posing the threat offered by Bedi, Chandrasekhar and Prasanna, as Sunil Gavaskar pointed out during England's first-innings debacle in Calcutta.

They certainly should not be tying a batsman with a Test average of 50 in knots. Fletcher believes the problem lies in county cricket. "We play on too many bland pitches, so people don't get used to playing against the turning ball," the England manager said, pointing out its damaging consequences for both batsmen and bowlers.

"It would be nice if Graeme Hick bowled a lot more in county cricket but, for that to happen, he needs turning wickets to bowl on. Unless wickets start to turn more, I can see the day when we won't have any spinners any more. We have got to start producing cricket pitches rather than good batting pitches."

FOOTBALL

Plymouth chairman says Shilton's job is secure

PETER Shilton has been told to carry on as player-manager of Plymouth Argyle, the second-division club. Shilton, the former England goalkeeper, yesterday spent over two hours with the Plymouth chairman, Dan McCauley, who had described their Autoglass Trophy defeat by Torquay United on Tuesday as "an absolute disgrace to the supporters, the club and city of Plymouth".

His comments prompted speculation that Shilton's job was in jeopardy, but McCauley said after the meeting: "I don't know what you fellows [the media] are getting so excited about. I'm 100 per cent behind the manager."

Shilton, who has served one year of a three-year contract, said: "He wants us to do well and is big enough to admit that he sometimes says things that he shouldn't. We've both got common goals to get the club to the top."

The Wales manager, Terry Yorath, has welcomed back the Bristol City defender, Mark Aizlewood, into his squad for the international against the Republic of Ireland in Dublin on February 17. Aizlewood has missed the last three matches with a back injury.

WALES SQUAD: N Southall (Everton), A Roberts (Queens Park Rangers), P Bodin (Swindon Town), M Bowen (Norwich City), D Phillips (Norwich City), G Speed (Leeds United), E Young (Crystal Palace), M Aizlewood (Bristol City), K Symons (Portsmouth), G Williams (Ipswich Town), M Pembridge (Derby County), B Horne (Everton), M Hughes (Manchester United), I Rush (Liverpool), D Saunders (Aston Villa), R Giggs (Manchester United).

☐ Newcastle United will sign the Cypriot international midfield player, Nicos Papavassiliou, for £130,000 after he impressed during a trial.

Formula One driver returns from the very edge to test his courage again

MARC ASPLAND



Helping hand: Donnelly is supported by Jordan, left, on his return to racing at Silverstone yesterday

Driving force has Donnelly back on track

BY ADRIAN HOLLOWAY

On September 28, 1990, a terrible accident in a Formula One car left the young Irish driver, Martin Donnelly, broken on the track at Jerez de la Frontera. Yesterday, at Silverstone, Donnelly climbed gingerly behind the wheel of another Formula One car then drove it full speed around one of the fastest circuits in the world.

It was the first time he had driven such a car since the accident and, afterwards, it was clear he would have difficulty ever driving competitively again. Formula One safety regulations require a driver to be able to get out of the cockpit in five seconds without removing the steering wheel. Donnelly can barely manage that with the steering wheel removed.

"It's very frustrating because I can't bend my left leg," he said. "I broke it in five places, and I've got no leverage. At the moment, it takes me 30 to 35 seconds to get out but I reckon I'll have one more operation and then make a decision."

Eddie Jordan had provided him with the car, honouring a promise made when Donnelly was fighting for his life. The Ulsterman, 28, completed 2½ laps when trouble with the fuel pump brought the day's adventure to an end. Despite foggy conditions and technical problems, he was exhilarated to be in a Formula One car again.

"The specialists said it couldn't happen," he said. "But I've proved them wrong. Everything just clicked. It felt like I'd had 2½ months off not years. I'm fortunate because I have no memory of the accident but I didn't know if I'd get some recollections from my subconscious when I drove today."

Those who saw it have no difficulty remembering the crash. One of the sport's brightest prospects, Donnelly was driving a Lotus, and trying to qualify for his fourteenth grand prix, when a technical failure on a straight destroyed the car and shattered his career.

The Lotus hit a tyre wall at 170mph. Donnelly was hurled from the cockpit, coming to rest on the trackside, still strapped to his seat, with his left leg tucked horribly beneath his body. He lay there motionless. The severity of his injuries were at once apparent — the first marshall who reached him was immediatly sick.

Sid Watkins, the Formula One track doctor, who arrived quickly on the scene, gave Donnelly no more than two minutes to live. "I was asphyxiated, my face had turned blue and I'd swallowed my tongue. Sid basically brought me back to life," Donnelly said.

He had broken both legs, his collarbone and fractured his skull. His lungs and kidneys had stopped working and he was unconscious for seven weeks. "It was touch and go," he said.

So what drew him back to a sport that had almost claimed his life? "There may be no future for me in Formula One but I had to do this today. I didn't know whether something from the accident would come back to me. But I don't think I could have lived with myself if I hadn't taken this chance. It would have niggled me for the rest of my life."

Donnelly had already achieved one ambition when he walked unaided up the aisle at his wedding in April 1991. His unbroken spirit emerged again the following day when he and his best man secretly drove round the Snetterton circuit in Norfolk. "It was only a couple of laps but I was desperate to get behind the wheel again."

His driving future now rests in the hands of Dr Terry Trammel, an American specialist. Dr Trammel has achieved fame in the United States for patching up the injuries of IndyCar drivers. Donnelly plans to fax him medical records and arrange an appointment. If Trammel can do nothing to free the muscle that is stuck to Donnelly's thigh bone, then the Irishman is likely to confine his driving interests to the Vauxhall-Lotus rally cross team he set up last year.

John Watson, who came second in the Formula One world championship in 1982, was at Silverstone yesterday to see his countryman drive the Jordan. He had no reservations about the wisdom of Donnelly's actions.

"What Martin did was not foolhardy but extremely courageous," he said. "He drove an unfamiliar car in difficult conditions around what I believe to be one of the most difficult circuits in the world. What's more, he didn't do it in secret. Racing has given him a lot of pleasure, so why shouldn't he do what he wants?"

Even Donnelly's wife, Diane, perhaps the person most likely to resist his return, supported him yesterday. "What's helped Martin recover as quickly as he has is the thought of driving again," she said. "When I was in the pit, I got nervous hearing the engine roar. My tummy started going again but, when someone's worked that hard to get well, the best thing to do is encourage them. I couldn't stop him anyway, it's what he lives to do."

"People think I'm mad to be driving again," Donnelly said. "Financially, I don't need to do it but it's the thing I love and what I'm good at. I was doing what I wanted then someone turned out the lights. I feel that life has dealt me a bad hand; now I've got to learn how to play it again."



Day of disaster: Donnelly lies motionless after crashing in the Spanish grand prix at Jerez de la Frontera on September 28, 1990

FOR THE RECORD

FOOTBALL

INTERNATIONAL MATCHES: Denmark 2, El Salvador 0 (in Los Angeles). Romania 2, Peru 0 (in Lima).

SPANISH CUP: Third round, first legs: Extremadura 0, Real Oviedo 2; Sporting Gijon 1, Real Zaragoza 0; Landa 0, Real Sociedad 0; Sevilla 0, Valencia 0; Real Mallorca 2, Real Madrid 0. Jaen 1, Villareal 0; Real Valladolid 1, Albacete 0.

Late results on Wednesday

FA CUP: Fourth-round replays: Leeds United 2, Arsenal 3 (aet; 2-2 after 90 mins); Middlesbrough 0, Nottingham Forest 3; Newcastle United 2, Rotherham United 0; Wimbledon 0, Aston Villa 0 (aet, Wimbledon won 6-5 on pens).

COCA-COLA CUP: Fifth-round replay: Sheffield Wednesday 1, Ipswich Town 0.

ANGLO-ITALIAN CUP: Semi-finals: First leg: Cremonese 4, Ban 1. Second leg: Derby County 1, Brentford 2 (agg. 5-5; Derby won on away goals).

GM VAUXHALL CONFERENCE: Boston Utd 3, Dagenham and Redbridge 1.

SCOTTISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Celtic 5, St Johnstone 1, Dundee 1, Heart of Midlothian 0. First division: Meadowbank Thistle 1, St Mirren 2.

PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Barnsley 3, Notts County 4; Bolton 3, Stoke 1. Manchester City 0, Blackburn 1. Second division: Hull 1, Coventry 5, Port Vale 1, Grimsby 3; Preston 1, Burnley 2; West Brom 3, Huddersfield 6, York 3, Scunthorpe 1.

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Midland division: Evesham 1, Redditch 1. Southern division: Burnham 0, Buckingham 3; Poole 0, Erith and Belvedere 2.

DIADORA LEAGUE: First division: Molesey 2, Maidenhead 0. Full Members Cup: Preliminary round: Chesham 1, Stevenage 3.

GREAT MILLS LEAGUE: Premier division: Chippenham 1, Mangotsfield 3; Saltash 2, Bristol Manor Farm 2.

NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Durham City 1, Brandon 0, South Bank 0, Seaham Red Star 3.

HFS LOANS LEAGUE CUP: Warrington Town 1, Whitley Bay 1; Winsford 4, Hyde 0.

KONICA LEAGUE CUP: Preliminary round: Mold 3, Holywell 2.

INTERNATIONAL MATCH: Israel 0, Poland 0.

DUTCH LEAGUE: FC Den Bosch 0, Go Ahead Eagles Deventer 1; PSV Eindhoven 3, Sparta Rotterdam 1.

PORTUGUESE CUP: Quarter-finals: Alverca 0, Sporting 3; Boavista 1, Braga 0; Estrela Amadora 1, Guimaraes 2; Benfica 5, Amora 0.

CRICKET

TOUR MATCHES: Canberra: England A 379-7 dec (M D Moxon 123, R C Russell 67); Australian Capital Territory 65 (M C Ilott 4-12, A R Caddick 4-14) and 381-7 (N J Speak 120, P Solway 104). Match drawn. Delhi: England Under-19 224-5 (J Daley 55) v India Under-19.

SHEFFIELD SHIELD: Second day (of four). Melbourne: Victoria 406-8 dec (W Phillips 81, D Lehmann 50 not out); South Australia 132-2 (J Siddons 78 not out). Sydney: Western Australia 467 (T Moody 76, B Julian 75, S Herzberg 57 not out; T Bayliss 4-64). New South Wales 163-0.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

7.30 unless stated

Barclays League Second division

Stockport v Wigan .....
Swansea v Burnley .....

BORD GAIS LEAGUE OF IRELAND: Premier division: Shelbourne v Cork City (7.45).

KONICA LEAGUE OF WALES: Bangor v Porthmadog; Cwmbran v Briton Ferry.

PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Blackburn v Aston Villa (7.0)

RUGBY UNION

REPRESENTATIVE MATCHES: Welsh Students v English Students (at Llanelli, 2.30); Welsh Universities v English Universities (at Newbridge, 7.0).

OTHER SPORT

BADMINTON: Bulgarian Vintners English national championships (Norwich Sports Village).

BOXING: Amateur international: Ireland v England (Dublin).

TENNIS: LTA women's satellite tournament (Newcastle).

BASKETBALL

EUROPEAN CLUBS' CHAMPIONSHIP: Men: Semi-final series: Group B: Estudiantes Madrid 85, Benetton Treviso (it) 86; Machelen (Bel) 88, Real Madrid 98; KK Zadar (Cro) 71, Bayer Leverkusen (Ger) 77.

NATIONAL CUP: Semi-finals, second legs: Worthing Bears 90 (Irish 28, Spaid 17), Leicester City Riders 77 (Waldron 36; Worthing win 190-176 on agg); Thames Valley Tigers 83 (St Kitts 20, Lloyd 19, Scott 17), Guildford Kings 84 (Duncan 26, Henlan 18, Gordon 17; OT; Guildford win 167-164 on agg).

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Miami Heat 116, Atlanta Hawks 98; Charlotte Hornets 122, Philadelphia 76ers 118, Houston Rockets 119, Dallas Mavericks 102; Cleveland Cavaliers 108, Milwaukee Bucks 100; Utah Jazz 100, Denver Nuggets 96, Phoenix Suns 122, Minnesota Timberwolves 102; Chicago Bulls 107, Sacramento Kings 88.

HOCKEY

INTER-CONTINENTAL CUP: Qualifying tournament (in Cairo): Malaysia 2, Scotland 0 (first match in best-of-three series).

BOXING

OLYMPIA, London: World Boxing Council featherweight championship (12 rnds): Paul Hodkinson (Liverpool, holder) bt Ricardo Cepeda (P Rico), rsc 4th rnd. Light (6 rnds): Paul Ryan (Hackney) bt Neil Smith (Leicester), rsc 1st rnd. Welter (6 rnds): Kevin Adamson (Walthamstow) bt Joel Ani (Hackney), rsc 6th rnd. Welter (6 rnds): Kevin Lueshing (Beckenham) bt Ian Chantler (St Helens), rsc 2nd rnd. Welter (6 rnds): Derek Granger (Bethnal Green) bt Trevor Meikle (Scunthorpe), rsc 6th rnd. Light-middle (6 rnds): Kevin Sheenan (Crawley) bt Russell Washer (Swansea), pts. Super-middle (6 rnds): Sam Storey (Belfast) bt Graham Janner (Hastings), rsc 4th rnd. Heavy (6 rnds): Dermot Gascoyne (Bedwyneath) bt Steve Stewart (Clapham), rsc 4th rnd.

CYCLING

COPENHAGEN: Six-day race: Final positions: 1 J Veggerby and R Sorensen (Den), 400pts; 2, D Clark (Aus) and A Doyle (GB), 314; 3, E de Wilde (Bel) and P Sincoletto (It), one lap behind, 286; 4, U Freuler and K Betschart (Switz), 252.

JAEN, Spain: Tour of Andalusia: Third stage (139nm): 1, J Planckaert (Bel), 3hr 1mn 45sec; 2, W Nelissen (Hol); 3, S Moreels (Bel), 4, N Verhoeven (Hol); 5, A Gutierrez (Sp); 6, M Fondriest (It), all same time. Overall: 1, J Llanaras (Sp), 9 41 15; 2, J Garaspe (Sp), at 3sec; 3, E van Hooydonck (Bel), at 4 sec; 4, N Stephens (Aus), same time; 5, A Garmendia (Sp), at 6sec; 6, T Cordes (Hol), at 10sec.

RUGBY UNION

A INTERNATIONAL: England 59, Italy 0

REPRESENTATIVE MATCHES: Cambridge University 27, Army 20; Cornwall 23, Royal Navy 13; London Irish 26, RAF 10.

CLUB MATCH: Munster 3, Rugby 103.

SCHOOLS MATCHES: Daily Mail Under-18 Cup: Quarter-final: RGS, Guildford 20, Coopers 7. Other matches: Dartford 25, Havering 0; Warwick 23, Malvern 21.

TENNIS

SAN FRANCISCO: Men's tournament: First round: C Adams (US) bt R Furlan (It), 6-3, 6-4; A O'Brien (US) bt D Witt (US), 5-7, 6-3, 7-6. Second round: A Agassi (US) bt P McEnroe (US), 6-0, 6-2; J Tarango (US) bt R Weiss (US), 6-2, 7-5; M Chidrinaka (SA) bt J Morgan (Aus), 6-3, 2-6, 6-4; J Oncins (Br) bt G Muller (SA), 2-6, 6-4, 4-2, ret.

DUBAI: Men's tournament: Second round: T Muster (Austria) bt M Gorriz (Sp), 4-6, 6-4, 6-3; A Chesnokov (Russ) bt T Carbonell (Sp), 7-6, 6-4; C Dosedel (Cz) bt J Sánchez (Sp), 6-3, 6-2, K Novacek (Cz) bt L Wahlgren (Swe), 6-2, 3-6, 6-1. Third round: A Volkov (Russ) bt L Jonsson (Swe), 7-5, 6-1; F Santoro (Fr) bt K Braasch (Ger), 6-2, 6-1; J Bates (GB) bt J Cunha-Silva (Port), 3-6, 6-3, 6-3; C-U Steeb (Ger) bt C Mezzadri (Switz), 7-5, 6-3.

MARSEILLE: Men's tournament: Second round: J Siemerink (Hol) bt C Pridham (Can), 6-2, 7-5; S Bruguera (Sp) bt G Raoux (Fr), 6-4, 5-7, 6-4; G Pozzi (It) bt I Lendl (US), 6-4, 5-7, 6-4.

YOKOHAMA, Japan: Women's tournament: Second round: S Graf (Ger) bt N Zvereva (Belarus), 6-2, 6-0; Y Kamio (Japan) bt G Fernandez (US), 6-4, 6-3, N Tauziat (Fr) bt M Maleeva-Fragniere (Switz), 7-6, 6-3; M Navratilova (US) bt Y Basuki (Indo), 6-2, 6-1; J Novotna (Cz) bt M Endo (Japan), 6-4, 6-2; L Savchenko-Neiland (Lat) bt A Temesvari-Trunkos (Hun), 6-2, 7-5; P Shriver (US) bt M Maleeva (Bul), 6-4, 6-3; R Hiraki (Japan) bt K Boogert (Hol), 7-6, 4-6, 6-2.

AUCKLAND: Women's tournament: Second round: A Kanak (Ger) bt J Richardson (NZ), 4-6, 6-2, 6-1; I Gorrochategui (Arg) bt K Arens (US), 6-4, 3-6, 6-2; C Kuhlman (US) bt N Brzegovic (Cro), 6-4, 7-5; C Wood (GB) bt N Hamerlin (Fr), 6-2, 6-1.

NEWCASTLE: LTA women's satellite tournament: Quarter-finals: G Coonbergel (Hol) bt J Dubcova (Cz), 6-2, 6-0; L Ahl (Devon) bt L Zaltz (Isr), 6-3, 6-2, S Plischke (Austria) bt A Sidot (Fr), 6-2, 6-0; L Jelis (Oxford) bt P Piorkowski (US), 6-1, 6-4.

GOLF

SAN LORENZO, Portugal: Longshot Tournament: Third-round leaders: 212: M Stubbs (Formby). 214: P Mitchell (London). 220: P Bradley (Billingham); C Gilchins (Cowdray Park). 222: C Cox (West Essex). 225: S Purves (Tudor Park); G Gray (Dumfries); N Brown (Mid Herts). 227: B McColl (Northern); L Blacklock (Woburn). 228: T Blackburn (Dartford). Teams: 403: Purves, 410: Blacklock. 411: Blackburn.

NAIROBI: Kenya Open: Leading first-round scores: 67: B Lincoln (SA), A Haglund (Swe). 68: J Bland (SA), S van Vuuren (SA), C Stromberg (Swe), W Brady (SA), A Rogers (GB), F Regard (Fr), C Suneseon (Swe), A Chasse (SA).

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): New York Rangers 2, Philadelphia Flyers 2 (OT); Boston Bruins 4, Quebec Nordiques 1; Calgary Flames 5, New Jersey Devils 4; Detroit Red Wings 5, Chicago Black Hawks 0; Ottawa Senators 3, Edmonton Oilers 2; New York Islanders 8, Toronto Maple Leafs 2; Montreal Canadiens 7, Los Angeles Kings 2; Buffalo Sabres 3, Hartford Whalers 2; Vancouver Canucks 4, Tampa Bay Lightning 2; Minnesota North Stars 7, San Jose Sharks 3; St Louis Blues 4, Winnipeg Jets 2.

RUGBY FIVES

SCHOOLS MATCH: Rullsh 130, Whitgift 44.

RACKETS

QUEEN'S CLUB, London: Lacoste British Open championship: Second round: W Boone bt K Walker, 15-10, 15-3, 15-6.

RUGBY LEAGUE

STONES BITTER CHAMPIONSHIP: First division: Bradford 30, Hull 14; Wigan 38, Wakefield 14.

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm) L	U	Piste	Conditions Runs to resort	Weather	Temp °C	Last snow fall
FRANCE							
La Clusaz	10	170	mixed	hard	sunny	2	27/1
(Still good at De Balme. Skiing possible on 4 massifs)							
Les Deux Alpes	30	220	mixed	bare	bright	3	27/1
(Still good above 2,000m. 33 lifts operating)							
Montgenevre	20	70	mixed	hard	bright	0	27/1
(Good skiing on hardpacked snow. 11 pistes open)							
Val d'Isère	100	160	good	complete	sunny	2	27/1
(40 lifts open. Great skiing at Solaise and Pissaillas)							
ITALY							
Cervinia	30	250	good	hard	sunny	1	27/1
(Good skiing throughout. Best on Plateau Rosa glacier)							
C d'Ampezzo	10	80	good	slick	sunny	10	8/12
(Spring snow conditions. All 40 lifts operating)							
Livigno	50	140	good	hard	fine	-2C	27/1
(26/27 lifts open. Best at Monte delle Neve and Costaccia)							
SWITZERLAND							
Arosa	60	90	mixed	thin	sunny	2	29/1
(Snow on lower runs wet after midday)							
Champery	20	50	mixed	thin	sunny	6	28/1
(Fair conditions at 2,500m 14/18 lifts operating)							
St Moritz	30	100	good	hard	sunny	3	28/1
(All lifts and runs open. Great glacier skiing)							
AUSTRIA							
Ischgl	20	150	good	hard	sunny	2	28/1
(Great sunshine skiing. All lifts and runs open)							
Obergurgl	75	170	good	good	sunny	2	28/1
(Great skiing with all lifts and runs open)							
Seefeld	30	85	fair	slick	sunny	2	28/1
(Artificial snow maintaining cover. All lifts operating)							
St Anton	25	320	good	fair	sunny	6	28/1
(Great skiing on dry, powdery snow)							

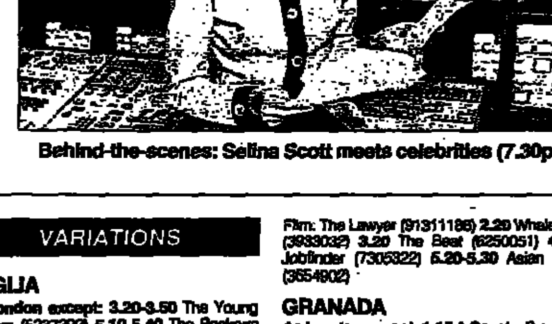
Information supplied by Ski Hotline

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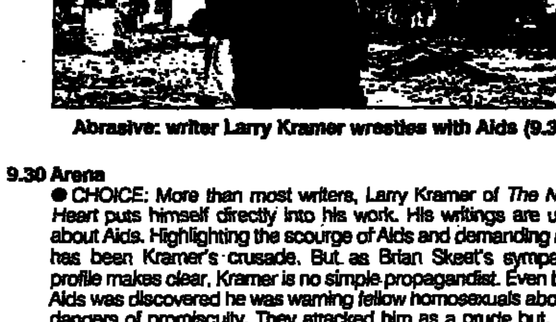
BBC1

6.00 Business Breakfast (46679) **7.00 Breakfast News** (83649501)
9.05 Kilroy. Robert Kilroy-Silk chairs a topical discussion (s) (1652786)
9.45 Ross King Quiz game show (s) (6619292)
10.00 News, regional news and weather (9284360) **10.05 Playdays** For the very young (r) (s) (6008230)
10.30 Good Morning ... with Anne and Nick Weekday magazine series presented by Anne Diamond and Nick Owen (s) (10212969)
12.15 Pebble Mill with Alan Titchmarsh (s) (7986495) **12.55 Regional News** and weather (98776766)
1.00 One O'Clock News with Philip Hayton. (Ceefax) Weather (73650)
1.30 Neighbours. (Ceefax) (s) (87298124) **1.50 Eldorado** (r). (Ceefax) (s) (78247211)
2.20 First Letter First. Word game hosted by Don Maclean (s) (47870106) **2.45 The Flying Doctors**. Medical drama series set in the Australian outback. The team attempt to rescue a young child who has fallen down a disused mine's airshaft (s) (1995785)
3.30 Cartoon Double Bill (8016679) **3.45 Juniper Jungle**. Cartoon (8222872) **3.55 Quick Draw McGraw** (r) (8228056) **4.05 Jackanory**. Tony Slattery tells the final part of *The Magic Hare* by Lynne Reid Banks (2967940) **4.15 Rude Dog and the Dweebs** (r) (1354259) **4.30 The Really Wild Show** Chris Packham feeds jam to wasps from the end of his nose, and there is a visit to a monkey sanctuary (Ceefax) (s) (3485698)
4.55 Newsround Extra (3990389) **5.05 Grange Hill**. Tales of teenage angst in the drama series set in a comprehensive school. (Ceefax) (s) (8236259)
5.35 Neighbours (r) (Ceefax) (s) (158698) Northern Ireland: Inside Ulster
6.00 Six O'Clock News with Peter Sissons and Moira Stuart. (Ceefax) Weather (414)
6.30 Regional News Magazines (766). Northern Ireland: Neighbours
7.00 Eldorado. (Ceefax) (s) (6360)
7.30 Entertainment Express. Showbusiness magazine presented by Selina Scott and John Leslie. The guests include Ian McShane and Simon Le Bon. In addition William Shatner, Joan Rivers and Catherine Oxenberg talk about the world's biggest television trade fair in San Francisco. (Ceefax) (s) (650). Northern Ireland: Sportscene
8.00 Your Best Shot presented by Marti Caine. Two lumberjacks race each other in a log-cutting contest; comedian Mike Osman accepts a challenge to pass himself off as a manicurist; and the Taylor family interrogate three young ladies who hope to marry their medical student son (Ceefax) (s) (465698)
8.50 Comic Relief's Red Nose Alert. Lenny Henry and Angus Deayton bring news of this year's Red Nose Day appeal on March 12 (s) (838563)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Martyn Lewis (Ceefax) Regional news and weather (4501)
9.30 Love Hurts. Tessa and Frank's differences seem insurmountable when they travel to Bulgaria. (Ceefax) (s) (827476)
10.20 Terry Wogan's Friday Night (s) (353501). Northern Ireland: Anderson on the Box 11.10 Entertainment Express
11.00 Film: Cross of Iron (1977)
● CHOICE: Having given us, in *The Wild Bunch*, a bloody and uncompromising view of the American west, Sam Peckinpah went on to offer a similar treatment of the second world war. The film is set on the Russian front in 1943 and charts relationships within a retreating German unit. The men are a latter-day wild bunch bonded by a common purpose but divided by class and temperament. The central confrontation is between James Coburn's brilliant but wayward sergeant and the punctilious, self-serving new commander (Maximilian Schell). James Mason plays the unit's battle-weary colonel and David Warner a young captain. *Cross of Iron* is as striking to look at as it is uncomfortable to watch. Peckinpah wants us to know that war is hell and, being Peckinpah, spares few details. (Ceefax) (76261940). Northern Ireland: 11.40 Terry Wogan's Friday Night 12.20-2.00 Film: Stones for Ibarra
1.05am Weather (3645877)


Behind-the-scenes: Selina Scott meets celebrities (7.30pm)

BBC2

6.00 Breakfast News (5622124)
8.15 Westminster (2951476)
9.00 Daytime on Two. Educational programmes (16278389)
2.00 News and weather followed by **Words and Pictures** (r) (s)
2.15 Jumpcuts. A preview of Open University programmes (r) (54428679)
2.20 Sport on Friday introduced by Helen Rollason. Skiing: world championships from Morioka-Shizukuishi, Japan; Rugby Union: a look ahead to tomorrow's five nations championship matches; Football: highlights of the week's matches (5281673). With **News** (Ceefax) and weather at **3.00** and **3.50** (8227327)
4.00 Catchword Paul Coia presents another round of the game for wordsmiths (s) (679)
4.30 Film: Abilene Town (1946, b/w). Formula western starring Randolph Scott as a sheriff trying to keep the peace between cattlemen and homesteaders. Directed by Edwin L. Marin (58414)
6.00 Stingray. Classic underwater puppet adventures (r). (Ceefax) (551037)
6.25 The Man from UNCLE. Sixties spoof secret agent series starring the incredibly young Robert Vaughan and David McCallum. Ilya and Napoleon keep one step ahead of THRUSH when they intercept a radioactive watch which pinpoints their enemy's highly-secret mountain Satrap (r). (Ceefax) (521872)
7.15 Dr Who: The Genesis of the Daleks. Can the good doctor (Tom Baker) finally destroy his old enemies? (r). (Ceefax) (213785)
7.40 What the Papers Say presented by *Private Eye*'s Christopher Silvester (838785)
8.00 Public Eye: The Wanted Man.
● CHOICE: The Wanted Men are Britain's 900,000 absent fathers, who owe maintenance for their children. Under the Child Support Act which comes into effect in April they will be forced to pay up. The idea is to ease the burden on the taxpayer which is helping single parents through Income Support. But Jenny Cuffe's report suggests that the new rules could make life harder. A single mother from Lancashire receives money from her former partner on the basis of what he can afford. If he is forced to increase his payments, these will be deducted from her Income Support and she will be no better off. In addition, he will be unable to make his regular visits. Meanwhile absent fathers are already being tracked down and there are accusations of snooping (3650)
8.30 Front Gardens presented by Gay Search. Susanna Brown takes up the challenge to redesign a garden that slopes in two directions and must provide parking space for three cars (2785)
9.00 Rab C. Nesbitt. Gregor Fisher stars as the unintelligible string-vested Glaswegian sage. This week our hero saves a tramp's life, but his patience is put to the test when the dosser moves into his home (r). (Ceefax) (s) (2143)


Abrasive: writer Larry Kramer wrestles with Aids (9.30pm)

9.30 Arena
● CHOICE: More than most writers, Larry Kramer of *The Normal Heart* puts himself directly into his work. His writings are usually about Aids. Highlighting the scourge of Aids and demanding action has been Kramer's crusade. But as Brian Skeet's sympathetic profile makes clear, Kramer is no simple propagandist. Even before Aids was discovered he was warning fellow homosexuals about the dangers of promiscuity. They attacked him as a prude but, as he says, many are now dead. Kramer was diagnosed as HIV positive in 1988. Time has not softened his anger or mellowed his abrasive style. The programme reminds us that he is the same Larry Kramer who wrote and produced Ken Russell's film of *Women in Love*. The fuss over its most famous scene, of two naked men wrestling, can be seen as a taste of things to come (72414)
10.30 Newsnight with Francine Stock (867414)
11.15 Weather (831389)
11.20 Heimat (colour and b/w). Episode three of the acclaimed 11-part German saga following the lives of three families living in a small village from 1919 to 1982 (r) (226691). Ends at **12.25am**. Wales: Wales in Westminster 11.50-12.50 Heimat

ITV LONDON

6.00 GMTV. Eamonn Holmes and Anne Davies are joined by Frank Carson and Tony Robinson (8624360)
9.25 Runway. Quiz show hosted by Richard Madeley (9716969) **9.55 London Today** (6084650)
10.00 The Time ... The Place ... Topical discussion programme (9391308)
10.35 This Morning. Weekday magazine programme presented by Judy Finnigan and Richard Madeley. With national and international news at **10.55** and regional news at **11.55** followed by national weather (80853940)
12.10 Tots TV. Children's puppet series (s) (1742245)
12.30 Lunchtime News with Nicholas Owen and Sonia Ruseler (Teletext) Weather (1238124) **1.05 London Today** and weather (80841940)
1.15 Home and Away. Australian family drama series (Teletext) (522853) **1.45 A Country Practice**. Medical drama serial set in the Australian outback (s) (521124)
2.15 Life Goes On. American family drama series. Becca falls under the spell of an arrogant teenage rock singer (9994969)
3.10 ITN News headlines (7364940) **3.15 London Today** (Teletext) Weather (7363211)
3.20 Blockbusters. Bob Holness presents the fast-moving quiz for teenagers (s) (5237292)
3.50 Thomas the Tank Engine and Friends (r) (3604018) **3.55 Zzzap!** Television comic (1674740) **4.15 Talespin** Animated adventures with Baloo and friends (r) (s) (3473747) **4.40 Eye of the Storm** Children's environmental thriller. Nell goes diving to find a ghost (Teletext) (8794414) **5.10 Home and Away** (r). (Teletext) (8220698)
5.40 Early Evening News with Dermot Murnaghan (Teletext) Weather (751834)
6.00 London Tonight with Alastair Stewart and Fiona Foster. (Teletext) (46376)
7.00 Celebrity Squares. Bob Monkhouse is joined by John Inman, Joan Sims, Dame Hilda Bracket, Wendy Richard, Willie Rushton and Richard Norton (s) (1056)
7.30 Coronation Street. (Teletext) (s) (178)
8.00 The Bill: A Better Life. After an elderly woman disturbs an intruder in her home, DS Greig becomes suspicious when she seems reluctant for the police to investigate. (Teletext) (7476)


Teenage crush? Mark Denham pops the question (8.30pm)

8.30 Second Thoughts. Romantic comedy starring James Bolam and Lynda Bellingham. Faith's teenage son, Joe (Mark Denham), announces his engagement. (Teletext) (s) (9211)
9.00 The Good Guys. Comedy-drama starring Nigel Havers and Keith Barron. The two Guys are caught up in a jewel robbery in Hatton Garden. (Teletext) (s) (7563)
10.00 News at Ten with Trevor McDonald. (Teletext) Weather (65582) **10.30 London Tonight**. (Teletext) (618230)
10.40 Love and War. American comedy series following the relationship between a newspaper columnist and a divorcee. Starring Susan Dey and Jay Thomas (s) (186940)
11.05 The London Programme. Topical issues and reports (224768)
11.35 TV Dating. Phone-in dating programme (849308)
12.05am The ITV Chart Show. Music videos (s) (9868896)
1.05 Whale On. James Whale chairs a discussion on a contentious subject (3724916)
2.10 American Gladiators. Super-fit contestants take on the might of the trained gladiators (s) (2394341)
3.15 Cinema, Cinema, Cinema with Richard Blade (3692235)
3.50 Austin City Limits. Country music (5820780)
4.50 Riviera. The continuing saga of the de Courcey family (4281761)
5.30 ITN Morning News (77167). Ends at **6.00**

CHANNEL 4

6.40 Spiff and Hercules. Animation (5238308)
7.00 The Big Breakfast presented by Chris Evans and Gaby Roslin (96501)
9.00 You Bet Your Life. American game show (s) (82259)
9.30 Schools (265414)
12.00 The Parliament Programme. Anne Perkins with reports on the work of both Houses (62495)
12.30 Sesame Street. American early-learning series (25143) **1.30 Lift Off** Children's entertainment (s) (89650)
2.00 Film: Gabriel over the White House (1933, b/w). Intriguing political satire starring Walter Huston as a corrupt American president who is involved in an accident and becomes a changed man. Directed by Gregory La Cava (270018)
3.35 After Arthur Minsky Died. When his friend dies, a man becomes a fitness fanatic, driving his long-suffering wife to distraction (r) (s) (6352414)
4.00 Travelog. The history and scenery of Chile (r). (Teletext) (s) (747)
4.30 Countdown Richard Whiteley presents another round of the words and numbers game (Teletext) (s) (259)
5.00 Cutting Edge: The Care Business. A repeat of Monday's documentary about the problems facing the elderly who must move into homes (Teletext) (r) (8969)
6.00 Blossom Comedy about a teenaged girl in an otherwise all-male Los Angeles household (s) (124)
6.30 Happy Days. Nostalgic American comedy series. Fonzie acquires a wife. (Teletext) (476)
7.00 Channel 4 News with Jon Snow. (Teletext) Weather (160105)
7.50 First Reaction. Karen Kristanovitch on why British films are becoming more popular in the United States (706105)
8.00 In Search of Holy England. Rabbi Lionel Blue concludes his exploration of English spirituality with a look at Oxford, where he recreates his search as an insecure student in 1950 trying to make sense of his own duty and future (r). (Teletext) (5018)


At the airport: Nicola Stephenson, Clive Moore (8.30pm)

8.30 Brookside. Suburban Merseyside soap. (Teletext) (s) (7853)
9.00 Gardens Without Borders.
● CHOICE: Speeded on their way by Maigret music, our little band of British gardening enthusiasts reaches Dieppe. The first stop is Madame Simone Vogue, a perky 86-year-old whose house was the birthplace of Maupassant. Her garden grows flowers, fruit and vegetables, all together, and looks a treat. Our host, Alan Mason, is soon reaching for his favourite adjective, fabulous. He repeats it three more times in the next ten minutes. The Princess Sturdza has a pretty fabulous garden as well, 20 acres and not a weed in sight. Mason reckons they do not dare. The Curtises from Lincolnshire and the Atkinsons from York drool over the acers and the rhodos and the hostas. This continues to be a simple, unassuming series, getting into Europe without the politics. (Teletext) (s) (7211)
9.30 Cheers. Can Lilith and Frasier's marriage survive her confession? (Teletext) (s) (96853)
10.00 Nurses. Black comedy series set in a Miami hospital. (Teletext) (s) (63124)
10.30 Absolutely. Comedy sketch show (s) (115563)
11.05 The Word. Music, chat and style series. Includes a report on how pornography has become popular in the United States (s) (749389)
12.10am Film: The Day it Came to Earth (1977). Preposterous science-fiction thriller charting the homicidal rampage of a dead gangster brought back to life as a murderous zombie by a meteorite. Directed by Harry Thomason (662983). Ends at **1.45**

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes
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VARIATIONS

ANGLIA
As London except: **3.20-3.50** The Young Doctors (5237292) **5.10-5.40** The Package Pilgrims (8220698) **6.00** Home and Away (548563) **6.25-7.00** Anglia News (413414) **10.45** Anglia Live (684698) **11.45** Married...With Children (123872) **10-1.05** Night Heat (9877544) **2.05** Raw Power (3944148) **3.05** Entertainment UK (4717506) **4.00** Sportsworld (22815) **4.30** Riviera (7612) **5.00-5.30** Jobfinder (40254)

BORDER
As London except: **1.45** One to One (521124) **2.15-3.10** Donahue (9994969) **3.20-3.50** The Young Doctors (5237292) **6.00** *Lookaround* (582) **6.30-7.00** Take the High Road (834) **10.40** The Window Cleaner (956747) **11.40** Island Son (362679) **12.35-1.05** Love At First Sight (4295506) **2.05** Raw Power (3944148) **3.05** Entertainment UK (4717506) **4.00** Sportsworld (22815) **4.30** Riviera (71612) **5.00-5.30** Jobfinder (40254)

CENTRAL
As London except: **1.15** A Country Practice (522853) **1.45** Home and Away (521124) **2.15-3.10** McCloud (9994969) **3.20-3.50** GP (5237292) **5.10-5.40** Movies, Movies, Movies (8220698) **6.00** Home and Away (548563) **6.25-7.00** Central News (413414) **10.40** Central Weekend (3519394) **12.10** Film: The Lawyer (91311186) **2.20** Whale On (3933032) **3.20** The Beat (6250051) **4.20** Jobfinder (7305322) **5.20-5.30** Asian Eye (3654902)

GRANADA
As London except: **1.15** A Country Practice (522853) **1.45** Home and Away (521124) **2.15-3.10** Highway to Heaven (9994969) **3.20-3.50** The Young Doctors (5237292) **5.10-5.40** Movies, Movies, Movies (8220698) **6.00** Home and Away (582) **6.30-7.00** Granada Tonight (834) **10.40** Up Front (956747) **11.40-1.05** Film: The Deadly Triangle (654872) **2.05** Raw Power (3944148) **3.05** Entertainment UK (4717506) **4.00** Sportsworld (22815) **4.30** Riviera (71612) **5.00-5.30** Jobfinder (40254)

HTV WEST
As London except: **1.45** Wish You Were Here..? (521124) **2.15-3.10** A Country Practice (9994969) **3.20-3.50** The Young Doctors (5237292) **6.00** HTV News (582) **6.30-7.00** HTV Sportsweek (834) **10.40** Late and Live (176563) **12.10-1.05** Miller and Mueller (9877544) **2.05** Raw Power (3944148) **3.05** Entertainment UK (4717506) **4.00** Sportsworld (22815) **4.30** Riviera (71612) **5.00-5.30** Jobfinder (40254)

HTV WALES
As HTV West except: **6.00** Wales at Six **6.30-7.00** Get Going **10.40** Storyline **11.10-12.10** Island Son

MERIDIAN
As London except: **2.15** Future Perfect (513105) **2.45-3.10** Wish You Were Here..? (2230650) **3.20-3.50** The Young Doctors (5237292) **6.00-7.00** Meridian Tonight (46376) **10.40** Film: Murder By Death (77446143) **12.30-1.05** Married...With Children (8164322) **2.05** Cinema, Cinema, Cinema (4061419) **2.35** Cue the Music (8261070) **3.30** Sport AM (30693) **4.30** *Country Ways* (71612) **5.00-5.30** Freescreen (40254)

TYNE TEES
As London except: **1.45-3.10** Film: Killdozer (5639921) **3.20-3.50** The Young Doctors (5237292) **6.00** Tyne Tees Today (582) **6.30-7.00** Friday *Documentary* (834) **10.40** Head to Head (956747) **11.40-1.05** Film: The Deadly Triangle (645124) **2.05** The Big E (3944148) **3.05** Film: Mutiny at Fort Sharpe (975341) **4.40** Rocksport (14538254)

WESTCOUNTRY
As London except: **1.45** Blockbusters (521124) **2.15** Wish You Were Here..? (513105) **2.45-3.10** Gardener's Diary (2230650) **3.20-3.50** A Country Practice (5237292) **6.00-7.00** Westcountry Live (46376) **10.40** Westwise (176563) **11.15-1.05** Film: Policewomen Centrefold (938872) **2.05** Raw Power (3944148) **3.05** Entertainment UK (4717506) **4.00** Sportsworld (22815) **4.30** Riviera (71612) **5.00-5.30** Jobfinder (40254)

YORKSHIRE
As London except: **1.45-3.10** Film: Killdozer (Clint Walker, Carl Betz) (5639921) **3.20-3.50** The Young Doctors (5237292) **5.55** Calendar (143018) **6.30-7.00** Superchamps (834) **10.40** Musical Routes (176563) **11.10** Married...With Children (674209) **11.40-1.05** Film: The Deadly Triangle (Dale Robinette, Taylor Lacher, Linda Scruggs Bogart) (645124) **2.05** The Big E (3944148) **3.05** Film: Mutiny at Fort Sharpe (Broderick Crawford) (975341) **4.40** Rocksport (14538254) **4.55-5.30** Challenge of the Seas (9782273)

S4C
Starts: **7.00** The Big Breakfast (96501) **9.00** You Bet Your Life (82259) **9.30** Yagollon (265414) **12.00** The Parliament Programme (62495) **12.30** Slot Meithrin (97679) **1.00** Lift Off (66360) **1.30** Close To Home (89650) **2.00** Film: Take My Daughters, Please (270018) **3.35** The Three Stooges (3379178) **3.55** Travelog (6338834) **4.25** Slot 23 (8049650) **5.00** Countdown (9834) **5.30** Brookside (211) **6.00** News (931259) **6.10** *Heno* (500389) **7.00** Pobol Y Cwm (9698) **7.30** Y Maes Chwarae (380) **8.00** Cein Gwlad (5018) **8.30** News (698414) **8.55** I'r Bur Hoff Bau (541652) **9.40** San Steffan (241414) **10.00** Nurses (63124) **10.30** Absolutely (115563) **11.05** The Word (749389) **12.10** Film: The Day It Came to Earth (662983) **1.45** Close

SATELLITE

SKY ONE
6.00am The DJ Kat Show (38590969) **8.40** Lamb Chops Play-a-Long (6985501) **9.10** Cartoons (8639679) **9.30** The Pyramid Game (35853) **10.00** Strike It Rich (83899) **10.30** The Bold and the Beautiful (13143) **11.00** The Young and the Restless (11834) **12.00** Falcon Crest (25476) **1.00pm** E Street (15850) **1.30** Another World (3469853) **2.15** Santa Barbara (168679) **2.45** Maude (150650) **3.15** The New Leave It To Beaver (157563) **3.45** The DJ Kat Show (1038766) **5.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (8501) **6.00** Rescue (5143) **6.30** E Street (6495) **7.00** Alf (9230) **7.30** Family Ties (2679) **8.00** Code 3 (5850) **8.30** Alien Nation (11037) **9.30** WWF Superstars of Wrestling (19782) **10.30** Studs (14872) **11.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (32327) **12.00** Skytext

SKY NEWS
News on the hour.
6.00am Sunrise (6036360) **9.30** Nightline (28327) **10.30** 48 Hours (86853) **11.30** International Business Report (72679) **1.30pm** Good Morning America (98698) **2.30** Parliament (37132) **3.30** The Lords (8758679) **5.00** Live at Five (6143) **7.30** 48 Hours (663292) **10.30** Nightline (87672) **12.30am** 48 Hours (22341) **1.30** ABC News (71506) **2.30** Travel Destinations (21544) **3.30** ABC News (50029) **4.30** *Financial Times* Business Weekly (81254) **5.30-6.00** ABC News (22631)

SKY MOVIES+
6.00am Showcase (2035698)
10.00 Stroker Ace (1983): Burt Reynolds as a racing car driver (40785)
12.00 The Last Remake of Beau Geste (1977). Foreign Legion spoof (83871)
2.00pm Aces High (1976): Peter Firth and Malcolm McDowell star as first world war fighter pilots (81056)
4.00 Mustang Country (1976): Wilderness tale starring Joel McCrea (79921)
5.30 Xposure: Film news (1358)
6.00 Stroker Ace (as 10am) (74986414)
7.40 Entertainment Tonight (463853)
8.00 The Rape of Dr Willis (1991): Jaclyn Smith operates on her assailant (23467143)
9.40 US Top Ten (317056)
10.00 Bad Influence (1990): James Spader meets drifter Rob Lowe (825834)
11.40 Black Eagle (1988): Martial arts thriller starring Sho Kosugi (942360)
1.25am The Silence of the Lambs (1991): Jodie Foster enlists the help of Anthony Hopkins's Hannibal Lecter (72923612)
4.00 Blind Fury (1989). Rutger Hauer as a blind samurai (11102). Ends at **5.30**

SKY MOVIES GOLD
6.30pm Appointment in Honduras (1953): Jungle adventure starring Glenn Ford and Ann Sheridan (74414)
8.00 Cattle Queen of Montana (1954): Western starring Barbara Stanwyck (57037)
10.00 Midnight Express (1978): Fact-based story about an American imprisoned in a Turkish jail (15563). Ends at **12.00**

THE MOVIE CHANNEL
7.00am Ship of Fools (1965): Drama on board an ocean liner (684650)
9.30 A Night to Remember (1942, b/w): Comedy whodunit (81197563)
11.05 The Last Hurrah (1958). Politician Spencer Tracy stands for re-election (58359821)
1.10pm Dad's Army (1971): Comedy about the home guard (47519834)
3.00 The Return to Boggy Creek (1977): Children's adventure (54871)
5.00 Columbo: Death Hits the Jackpot (1991): Starring Peter Falk (18698)
7.00 Triple Cross (1986): Three private eyes vie to solve a complex murder case (29853)
9.00 Reversal of Fortune (1990): Jeremy Irons stars as Claus von Bulow, accused of attempting to murder his wife Sunny, played by Glenn Close (63650)
11.00 Red Wind (1991): Psychologist Lisa Hartman becomes involved in murder (445747)
12.35am Nikita (1990): Anne Parillaud is trained as a government assassin (217457)
2.35 The Looking Glass War (1969) John le Carré thriller (407524)
4.25 Waterloo (1971) Rod Steiger as Napoleon (18724379). Ends at **6.40**

SKY SPORTS
6.30 Morning Stretch (45327) **7.00** Drag Racing (56389) **7.30** Netbusters (60124) **8.00** *Redline* (38747) **9.00** Morning Stretch (81143) **9.30** The Boot Room (55495) **10.30** Fishing (87327) **11.00** Netbusters (84679) **11.30** Morning Stretch (85308) **12.00** European League (15698) **1.00pm** US PGA Golf (40872) **3.00** Redline (24105) **5.00** The Boot Room (2969) **6.00** Sky Soccer Weekend (51722) **7.00** The Big League (613263) **9.30** US PGA Golf (67259) **11.30** Sky Soccer Weekend (48785) **12.30am** Surfing (47001) **1.30am** The Big League (943051)

EUROSPORT
6.30am Skiing (82292) **8.00** Step Aerobics (53360) **8.30** Skiing (14679) **10.00** Step Aerobics (21747) **10.30** Trans World Sport (22679) **11.30** Skiing (69259) **12.30pm** Basketball (30476) **2.00** Tennis (581124) **5.00** Skiing (7037) **6.00** Athletics (318871) **8.30** Eurosport News (6921) **9.00** Boxing (83940) **10.30** Skiing (39476) **11.30-12.00** Eurosport News (50259)

SCREENSPORT
7.00am Surfing (99259) **7.30** Football Holland (68766) **8.00** Football Europa (36389) **9.00** Ten Pin Bowling (67698) **10.00** Kick Boxing (57650) **11.00** Mountain Bike Show (75921) **11.30** Golf (31105) **12.30pm** Ten Pin Bowling (39969) **1.30** Mickey Thompson Off Road Racing (93476) **2.00** German Motorsport (28650) **3.00** Football Holland (87766) **4.00** Monster Trucks (6850) **4.30** Bowling (91394) **5.30** NHL Review (73018) **6.30** NBA Action (4679) **7.00** Gillette World Sports Special (4940) **7.30** Go — Motorsport (13360) **8.30** Kick Boxing (44389) **9.30** Pro Box (32834) **10.30** Football Europa (86698) **11.00** Volvo PGA Golf (41871) **12.30am** Football Holland (47083) **1.30** Ice *Hockey* (29709) **3.30** NHL *Review* (42051) **4.30** European Snooker (76457)

UK GOLD
6.00am Rainbow (36388747) **6.15** Button Moon (38309230) **6.30** Dungeons and Dragons (1108501) **7.00** Adventures of the Galaxy Rangers (3348018) **7.30** Neighbours (3350853) **8.00** Sons and Daughters (5932850) **8.30** EastEnders (5931921) **9.00** The Bill (5955501) **9.30** The Brothers (5761308) **10.30** Tenko (7757037) **11.30** Don't Wait Up (9276835) **12.00** Sons and Daughters (5942037) **12.30pm** Neighbours (5524582) **1.00** EastEnders (3347389) **1.30** The Bill (5523853) **2.00** Never the Twain (7755766) **2.30** The Fall and Rise of Reginald Perrin (3868211) **3.00** Dallas (5676871) **4.00** Adventures of the Galaxy Rangers (3859563) **4.30** Degrassi Junior High (3855747) **5.00** *Neighbours* (7746018) **5.30** Dr Who: The War Games (3879327) **6.00** The Brothers (5532501) **7.00** *Never the Twain* (7759582) **7.30** Don't Wait Up (3856476) **8.00** EastEnders (7768230) **8.30** The Fall and Rise of Reginald Perrin (7754037) **9.00** Tenko (3841360) **10.00** The Bill (5943766) **10.30** Alas Smith and Jones (5952414) **11.00** Dick Emery (5671227) **11.30** Film: The Devil Bat (1941, b/w) starring Bela Lugosi (9044582) **12.45-2.00am** Video Bites (37307709)

RADIO 3

6.55am Weather **7.00 On Air**, with Andrew Lyle. Biber (Sonata, Sancti Polycarpi); Verdi (Willow Song, Otello); Elgar (Serenade for strings); Haydn (Symphony No 23 in G)
9.00 Composer of the Week: Brahms (Variations on a theme by Robert Schumann, Op 23; Piano Quintet in F minor, Op 34)
10.00 Twentysomethings: Mozart (Horn Concerto No 2 in E flat, K417: Dennis Brain; Philharmonia under Walter Susskind); Grieg (Fra Monte Pincio; En svane; Varen: Solveig Kringelborn, soprano; Royal Stockholm PO under Rozhdestvensky); Ysaye (Sonata in D minor, Op 27 No 3: Joshua Bell, violin); Prokofiev (Piano Concerto No 1 in D flat: Andrei Gavrilov; LSO under Simon Rattle); Rimsky-Korsakov (Octave: The wave breaks into spray; The clouds scatter); Borodin (For the shores of your distant homeland: Dmitry Hvorostovsky, baritone, Mikhail Arkadiev, piano); Saint-Saëns (Sonata No 1 in D minor, Op 75: Joshua Bell, violin, Roger Vignoles, piano); Dvořák (Serenade in D minor for wind: Chamber Orchestra of Europe under Alexander Schneider)
12.00 Two Britten Song Cycles (r)
1.00pm News
1.05 Chamber Music from Manchester, live from the Concert Hall, New Broadcasting House. Todd Crow, piano, plays Krenek (Five Pieces, Op 39); Schubert (Sonata in A minor, D845)
2.00 Youth Orchestras of the World: Youth Orchestra of the Netherlands under Alexander Vakoulsky, recorded at the 1992 Aberdeen International Youth Festival. Kees Olthuis (Jour de fête); Tchaikovsky (Violin Concerto in D. Daniel Rowland); Shostakovich (Symphony No 5)
4.15 Dallapiccola: Tartiniana Seconda (Marco Rizzi, violin; Dallapiccola Ensemble under Luigi Suvini)
4.30 Land of the Lime Tree: Mojca Belak presents traditional songs and dances from Slovenia (r)
5.00 In Tune: Richard Baker talks to the oboe player Nicholas Daniel
7.30 BBC Symphony Orchestra, live from the Festival Hall, London. Nicholas Kenyon talks to the Dutch composer Louis Andriessen before Mark Wigglesworth conducts the first UK performance of his work for wind and percussion. Andriessen (De Snelheid). **7.50** Messiaen and the Tristan Myth. An interval talk by Paul Griffiths (r). **8.10** Messiaen (Turangalila-symphonie: with Joanna MacGregor, piano, Cynthia Miller, ondes martenot)
9.30 Curtain Up — Stiffelio
● CHOICE: It is not until two-thirds of the way through Hugh Macpherson's appetite-whetter for tomorrow night's live transmission on Radio 3 and BBC2 of Verdi's opera from Covent Garden, that we are told the real-life detective story behind *Stiffelio*'s first performances at the Royal Opera House. Hilary Finch gave the story quite an Agatha Christie touch in *The Times* on January 21. It was a detailed account of the sleuthing and marvellous discoveries that culminated in the assembling of the first complete, authentic, score of *Stiffelio* which we will hear tomorrow night
9.55 Purcell Simfony performs Biber (Sonatas Nos 6, 8, 9 and 11, Sonatae tam aris quam Aulis Servientes); William Young (Sonata for four violins, Sonata for three violins and bass); Schmelzer (Lamento sopra la morte Ferdinandi III; Sonata No 11 in five parts, Sacro-Profanus Concentus Musicus, 1622) (r)
10.45 Blue Skies: Steve Jones considers the altered states that fascinate both scientists and artists
11.30 Midnight Oil: Alan Hall introduces Kroumata Percussion in a concert recorded last December during the Tender is the North festival in the Barbican Hall, London. Takemitsu (Raintree); Wallin (Stonewave); Edlund (Earth); Sandstrom (Drums)
12.30-12.35am News
1.00-2.25 Night School (except in Scotland, as R5 at 1.05pm)

RADIO 4

(s) Stereo on FM
5.55am Shipping Forecast **6.00** News Briefing, incl **6.03** Weather **6.10** Farming Today **6.25** Prayer for the Day with Monsignor Kieran Conry **6.30** Today, incl **6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30** News **6.55 7.55** Weather **7.45** Thought for the Day with the Rev Dr Donald English **8.40** Yesterday in Parliament **8.58** Weather
9.00 News
9.05 Desert Island Discs: Sue Lawley's castaway is the psychiatrist Dr Anthony Storr (r) (s)
9.45 Loss of Innocence: The fifth of six talks in which Misha Glenny talks about his work as the BBC's radio correspondent in eastern and central Europe
10.00-10.30 News; Hindsight (FM only)
● CHOICE: Wisely, none of the scholarly contributors to this potted (and occasionally potty) history of the joke, swears hand on heart that his has been authenticated as the oldest. The most venerable of this morning's bunch is undoubtedly the Stone Age carving of a hunter, his spear, and a defecating deer. The Old Testament has a joke of sorts involving Abraham and Isaac, and there are wry sallies from Ancient Egypt, Greece and Rome. A saucy Anglo-Saxon *double-entendre* about a key, penned by monks, would have been at home in a *Carry On* comedy
10.00 Daily Service (LW only)
10.15 A Confession (LW only): Joss Ackland reads from Leo Tolstoy's autobiographical work, in which he searches for the meaning of life and faith (2/10)
10.30 Woman's Hour: Jenni Mills meets the American country singer Billy Jo Spears. Incl **11.00 News**
11.30 The Natural History Programme, presented by Jessica Holm
12.00 You and Yours, with Tasmeen Siddiki
12.25pm The Food Programme looks at the history of the Pot Noodle **12.55** Weather
1.00 The World at One, with James Cox
1.40 The Archers (r) (s) **1.55** Shipping Forecast
2.00 News; Classic Serial: Madame Bovary, by Gustave Flaubert (r) (s)
3.00 Special Assignment
3.30 Bookshelf: Paul Ferris talks about his book, *Sex and the British*, in which he examines sexual mores in the 20th century (s)
4.00 News
4.05 Kaleidoscope talks to the artist Andrew Logan and to the art historian Griselda Pollock; marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of Otis Redding's death; and views images of Miners at the Angela Flowers gallery in London (s)
4.45 Short Story: The Overnight Bag, by Graham Greene. Read by John Rowe (r)
5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping Forecast **5.55** Weather
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 Going Places (s)
7.00 News 7.05 The Archers (s)
7.20 Pick of the Week, with John Walters (s)
8.05 Any Questions? Jonathan Dimbleby's guests in Barnet, Hertfordshire, are Lady Anson, chairwoman of the Association of District Councils; Ann Clwyd, MP, shadow national heritage secretary; Graham Mather, president of the European Policy Forum; and John MacGregor, MP, transport secretary
8.50 Law in Action, presented by Marcel Berlins
9.15 Kaleidoscope: Paul Doust attempts to define high comedy (r)
9.45 Letter from America by Alistair Cooke (r) **9.59** Weather
10.00 The World Tonight, with Richard Kershaw (s)
10.45 A Book at Bedtime: Thus Was Adonis Murdered, by Sarah Caudwell (final episode)
11.00 Week Ending. A satirical review of the week's news (s)
11.25 The Financial Week, with Heather Payton
11.45 Today in Parliament
12.00-12.43am News, incl **12.27** Weather **12.33** Shipping **12.43** World Service (LW only)

FREQUENCIES: Radio 1: 1053kHz/285m;1089kHz/275m; FM-97.6-99.8. Radio 2: FM-88-90.2. Radio 3: FM-90.2-92.4. Radio 4: 198kHz/1515m; FM-92.4-94.6. Radio 5: 693kHz/433m; 909kHz/330m. LBC: 1152kHz/261m; FM 97.3. Capital: 1548kHz/194m; FM-95.8. GLR: 1458kHz/206m; FM 94.9; World Service: MW 648kHz/463m. Classic FM: FM-100-102.

RADIO 1
FM Stereo and MW. **4.00am** Bruno Brookes (FM only) **6.00** Simon Mayo **9.00** Simon Bates **12.30pm** Newsbeat **12.45** Jakki Brambles **3.00** Steve Wright in the Afternoon **6.00** Select-a-Brit **6.30** News '93 **7.00** Pete Tong's Essential Selection **9.00** Friday Rock Show **11.00** John Peel (FM only from 12.00) **2.00-4.00am** Nicky Horne (FM only)

RADIO 2
FM Stereo. **5.00am** Sarah Kennedy **6.15** Pause for Thought **7.00** Wake Up to Wogan **9.15** Pause for Thought **9.30** Ken Bruce **11.30** Jimmy Young **2.00pm** Debbie Greenwood **3.30** Ed Stewart **5.05** Neil Kinnock **7.00** The Singer and the Song: Lorna Donegan **7.30** Friday Night is Music Night **8.45** Peter Katin at the piano **9.00** Listen to the Band **10.00** Radio 2 Arts Programme **12.05am** Jazz Parade **12.35-4.00** Charles Nove with Night Ride

RADIO 5
News and sport on the hour until 7.00pm. **6.00am** World Service **6.30** Danny Baker's Morning Edition **9.30** Johnnie Walker with The AM Alternative **11.30** BFBS Worldwide **12.30pm** Partnerships **1.05** Schools: Topic Resources 9-11; **1.20** Playtime; **1.35** The Music Box; **1.50** Something to Think About; **2.05** Music Workshop — Music Course 3 **2.30** A Game of Two Halves **4.30** Five Aside **6.30** King Street Junior (r) **7.15** The Return of the Indian (final part) **7.30** Popcall **8.30** Euromix **9.30** Ruby III **10.10** Rave, incl **11.00** Sport **12.00-12.10am** News; Sport

WORLD SERVICE
All times in GMT. **4.30am** World Business Report **4.40** Travel and Weather **4.45** Programmes in German **5.30** Europe Today **5.59** Weather **6.00** News **6.14** Travel **6.15** The World Today **6.30** Programmes in French **6.59** Weather **7.00** Newsdesk **7.30** Taking Issue Around the World **8.00** News **8.10** Words of Faith **8.15** Music Review **9.00** News **9.05** World Business Report **9.15** Global Concerns **9.30** Seven Seas **9.45** Sports Roundup **10.00** News **10.01** Focus on Faith **10.30** John Sugar in Search of... **11.00** News **11.29** Travel **11.30** BBC English **11.45** Mittagsmagazin **11.59** Business Update **Midday** News **12.10pm** Words of Faith **12.15** Taking Issue Around the World **12.45** Sports Roundup **1.00** Newshour **2.00** News **2.05** Outlook **2.30** Four Short Stories: 4. The Axe **2.45** Global Concerns **3.00** News **3.15** Music Review **4.00** News **4.10** News About Britain **4.15** BBC English **4.29** News in French **4.30** Programmes in German **5.00** News and Business Report **5.14** Travel **5.15** BBC English **5.30** Programmes in French **6.00** News **6.30** Programmes in German **8.00** News **8.10** The World Today **8.25** Words of Faith **8.30** Europe Tonight **9.00** Newshour **10.00** News **10.10** News About Britain **10.15** People and Politics **10.45** Sports Roundup **11.00** News **11.05** World Business Report **11.15** Worldbrief **11.30** Multitrack 3 **Midnight** Newsdesk **12.30am** From the Weeklies **12.45** Recording of the Week **1.00** News **1.05** Outlook **1.30** Seeing Stars **1.45** Jazz Now and Then **2.00** Newsdesk **2.30** People and Politics **3.00** News **3.10** News About Britain **3.15** Sports Roundup **3.30** The Vintage Chart Show **4.00** News **4.15** Good Books

CLASSIC FM
6.00am Nick Bailey **9.00** Henry Kelly **12.00** Susannah Simons **1.00pm** Celebrity Choice **2.00** Lunchtime Concerto: J.S. Bach (Piano Concerto No 1: Cyprien Katsaris); Weiner (Hungarian Folkdance Suite) **3.00** Petroc Trelawny **6.00** Classic Reports with Margaret Howard **7.00** Classic Verdict **8.00** Classic FM Concert: Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra under Kurt Masur performs Liszt (Les Preludes); Schumann (Sympony No 4) **10.00** Adrian Love **1.00-6.00am** Robert Booth

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May date for WBC champion

Lewis forced to defend in US as King rules

FROM SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT, IN NEW YORK

LENNOX Lewis's hopes of making the first defence of his World Boxing Council heavyweight title in England were dashed yesterday when Don King, the American promoter, won the right to stage the fight between Lewis and Tony Tucker, of the United States.

King bid $12,160,000 just beating Lewis's backers who offered $12,002,000.

Don King's winning bid means that Lewis will have to forget the contracts he had signed with HBO, the leading American cable network, and Sky television. "I will decide which TV network gets the fight," King said. "I will probably put it on pay-per-view. I can use my fighters Julio Cesar Chavez and Julian Jackson to push a promotion but I will have to think about it."

The bout will almost certainly be held in Las Vegas on April 24 or May 8. However, Lewis had one consolation. He will receive $9,692,000 which is a record for a non-American boxer.

Lewis's manager, Frank Maloney, was disappointed that the bout would not be coming to England but he said: "I am very happy for Lennox because it means he is the highest paid fighter ever. He'll get 50 per cent more than Riddick Bowe is getting so you can see how highly the World Boxing Council title is held.

"I am sorry that the fight won't be in London. We wanted to fight in England but the defence will take place in England after Lennox knocks out Tucker. Lennox can beat Tucker in his back yard or in his living room. Lennox is No. 1 in the world and does not duck anyone."

Tony Tucker, 33, is one of only four men to have gone the distance with Mike Tyson. He won the IBF title in 1987 by stopping James "Buster" Douglas in ten rounds in Las Vegas, but lost it two months later to Tyson. "Tyson put me in the *Guinness Book of Records*. I was champion for the shortest time," Tucker said. "I'm going to put Lewis in the *Guinness Book of Records*, too, by taking away the title he never won in the ring."

Tucker, who has a record of only one defeat in 50 contests, disappeared from boxing after his defeat by Tyson and returned two years later to start a new career in which he has won 14 contests.

Bowe, the WBA and IBF champion, refuses to meet Lewis for the undisputed title until the British boxer renounces the WBC belt. He said: "I am not fighting for the WBC belt because it would go against all the things I've told you. Lennox wants you to believe that he has a legitimate way of saying he doesn't want to fight me. He is hiding behind that belt. He could say 'forget about the belts, it's you and me. We want to fight. Let's get it on.'

"He is robbing Britain of a true heavyweight champion. They will say: who did you beat? When did you beat him? How did you beat him? He can't answer those questions. I can. Eventually he will wake up and say 'He is an honest man and if I want to prove I'm the best I have got to beat him'."

☐ Dave McAuley is sure he will soon lose the record he shares with Chris Eubank of having defended a world title a record number of times — and he is delighted (Bryan Stiles writes). They have five successful defences to their credit but he predicts that his stablemate, Paul Hodkinson, the World Boxing Council featherweight champion, will chalk up at least seven or eight.

Hodkinson is aiming higher. He wants to defend 11 or 12 times and make the record unchallengeable before he retires in three years. The Liverpool boxer moved closer with his third successful defence, sweeping aside the challenge of Ricardo Cepeda with a non-stop barrage of punches that made the Puerto Rican's manager leap to his rescue in the fourth round at Olympia on Wednesday night.

"I knew he was a slow starter so I went for him straight from the bell and it did not take long to realise I was going to win," Hodkinson said. He is happy to defend his title at home or abroad but is keen on the idea of meeting the No. 1 challenger, Kevin Kelley, the American, in the United States.

Platt makes scoring return after injury

BY DENNIS SHAW

THE selection problems of the England football manager, Graham Taylor, were eased slightly yesterday when David Platt declared himself available to play against San Marino in the World Cup qualifying match at Wembley on February 17.

Platt, who has missed ten matches while recovering from knee surgery, scored twice for Juventus in a game arranged specially to establish his fitness to face Atalanta on Sunday.

In an 11-0 frolic against a small local club, he scored with a diving header in the opening minutes, added a second goal and declared himself fully fit after playing for the full 90 minutes. "I have stepped up my training in the past couple of weeks and it was nice to come through a full game without any problems," he said.

The news was relayed to Taylor who will name his squad on Monday. It is expected to contain few surprises for he is determined to stay loyal to the players he has used for the previous World Cup qualifying matches. Although Alan Shearer, of Blackburn Rovers, is almost certain to be ruled out, Taylor will ignore advice to go for Mark Hateley or Mick Quinn or some other in-form goalscorer on a "one-off" basis.

His attitude is that if goals are there for the taking, then he has players already in his squad capable of scoring them.

IAN STEWART



Eyes down: Neil Jenkins, the Welsh stand-off, practising goalkicking yesterday

Wales already celebrating record receipts

BY DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

AS ENGLAND'S players filtered their way into Cardiff yesterday to prepare for the five nations' championship game against Wales tomorrow, they were greeted by the merry tinkle of cash registers. The Welsh Rugby Union will take £1.8 million from the game, a record return for them from gate receipts and commercial contracts.

The Welsh have been unabashed about the sums: £750,000 from the gate, just over £100,000 from television rights, just under from advertising, merchandising and hospitality. When they have a successful team it should be even more, though England will hope to delay that process.

The squad trained at Wycliffe College, Stonehouse, near Gloucester yesterday before leaving for Cardiff with Geoff Cooke, the team manager, warning: "The greatest danger is that we become inhibited and allow the importance of the occasion to get to us." Cooke said, though, that he regards the Welsh match as no more significant than any other in the championship, however much profit there may be in it for Wales.

"We believe that, as a team, we are better than Wales simply because we have demonstrated as much. Wales have still to win meaningful games," he said.

Cooke has reassessed his initial impression of England's slim championship victory over France last month. Disappointment has turned to appreciation of qualities, English and French: "I think that will be borne out by their results against the other three countries and people might look at our win in a different light" he said.

At the same time he has enjoyed the success of the England A team, who beat Italy's second XV by 59-0 at Bath on Wednesday. "The commitment of the leading group of players has worked its way down" Cooke said.

"We are likely to lose three or four players from the seniors at the end of this season but we have players pushing forward from below. That's pressure of the best kind and the problem is to ensure reasonable competition for the A side, to sustain that area of development."

Wales, meanwhile, enjoyed a sharp workout at Sophia Gardens with Mike Hall, the Cardiff centre, showing no ill effects from the groin strain which forced him out of Wednesday's training.

Four of their team are from Swansea where Dick Best, the England coach, took a training session last August: "Their skill levels were very high," Best said reflectively, "and I thought we would have a hell of a game on our hands come February."

The Scotland party completed a two-hour training session at Murrayfield without any problems before setting off for Paris, where they have not won since 1969. Lock forward Andrew Reed, who has been treated for a thigh strain, was passed fit.

WRU denies cover-up on alleged payments

THE Welsh Rugby Union (WRU) yesterday denied it had attempted to hush up alleged secret payments to players to join the South African centenary tour in 1989. The South Africans recruited ten Welsh players to join their World XV, which also included representatives from Australia, Scotland, Ireland, France and England.

A report commissioned by the WRU into how the players, and six adminstrators, were recruited concluded that players might have been paid. But, while claiming that "at least one of the players received at least £30,000 and others as much, or broadly comparable figures", the enquiry team, headed by Vernon Pugh QC, admitted it could not fully substantiate its suspicions.

"We did not consider that the evidence was sufficiently complete or compelling for us to find this as a certain fact," the report said.

Three of the present England team were on the tour — Jeff Probyn, Mike Teague and Peter Winterbottom — while Robert Norster, the Welsh team manager, Robert Jones, Mike Hall and Tony Clement were also involved.

Veteran Coghlan targets four-minute barrier



Coghlan: Masters class

BY DAVID POWELL
ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

AS THE most famous record in British sport, Roger Bannister's sub four-minute mile was bound to attract variations on the theme. Noel Thatcher, one of Britain's Paralympic champions, is training to become the first blind man to achieve it, and tonight in New York, Eamonn Coghlan, of Ireland, hopes to lead the veteran class through the barrier.

These are encouraging days for the over-40s in sports where fitness tells. Just recently, Jimmy Connors reached the United States Open tennis semi-finals, aged 40, and George Foreman, 45, is a contender to regain the world heavyweight boxing title he last held nearly 20 years ago. Coghlan, 40, was the world 5,000 metres champion in 1983, retired in 1990 and, after a year of inactivity, pulled on his tracksuit again.

As he came to within six months of his fortieth birthday, the sub four-minute mile became Coghlan's focus. In September, he won the Princes Street Masters' Mile in Edinburgh in 4min 07sec, but then suffered a hamstring injury. He lost four weeks' training, which brings us to one reason why Coghlan is finding hard at 40 something that he managed easily ten years ago.

The injury, he said yesterday, had left him pessimistic for his sub-four prospects indoors at Madison Square Garden tonight, though he promises to deliver some time this season.

Two other factors are of greater significance in slowing down older sportsmen, according to Dr Craig Sharp, physiological consultant to the British Olympic Medical Centre and professor of sports science at Limerick University. No veteran has come within five seconds of sub-four, either indoors or out, and Sharp added: "Aerobic capacity goes down with age and one reason is that the maximum heart rate declines.

"Possibly the next most significant reason is tendon change. As one gets older, tendon becomes less elastic, so the runner gets less energy back. The Achilles tendon stores 37 per cent of the energy of the running stride."

Coghlan notes another inhibiting force. "The testosterone in your body reduces from your late twenties onwards and the lack of it prevents you from performing at the same level," he said. Ten years after setting an indoor world record of 3min 49.78sec, Coghlan's mark still stands. Despite his recent setback, he remains determined to succeed where John Walker, the New Zealand former world record holder, has failed.

Sooner or later this winter the record will come, he says, but there seems little chance of it being witnessed in Britain, home of the original sub four-minute mile. "I would like to be invited to run in Britain but the meeting promoters do not regard masters running as serious," Coghlan said.

The chairman of the boards, as he used to be known, wins that argument. However fast the forty-somethings in Britain, the sport has been slow to acknowledge them.

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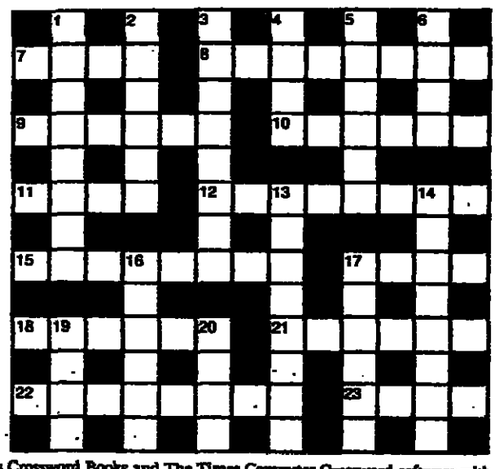
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8 Working (2,6)
9 Cheer shout (6)
10 Stagger (6)
11 Subtle suggestion (4)
12 Attendance check (4,4)
15 Fearless (8)
17 Vessel bow (4)
18 Ornamental feathers (6)
21 Queue entertainer (6)
22 Swap over (8)
23 Plunder (4)

DOWN
1 Speech manner (8)
2 Bordeaux red (6)
3 Senior (6,2)
4 Section (4)
5 Stationary (6)
6 Insider (4)
13 Spotted beetle (8)
14 Animal stall (5,3)
16 Jog one's memory (6)
17 Mortar grinder (6)
19 Frolic (4)
20 Out of danger (4)

SOLUTIONS TO NO 3013

ACROSS: 1 Demob 4 Idiotic 8 Mad Hatter 9 Rap 10 Sic 11 Recipient 12 Helix 13 Again 16 Perforate 18 Bob 20 Fib 21 Throbbing 22 Liturgy 23 Edges

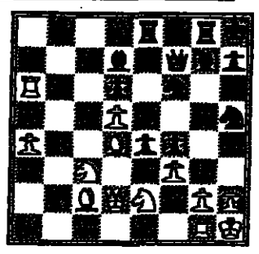
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By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

Today's position is from Timman — Kasparov, Paris 1992. Here Kasparov played 1 ... Ng3+, Timman captured the black knight with 2 Nxg3 and after 2 ... fxg3 3 Qf4 went on to score a fine victory against the world champion. Why did he avoid 2 hxg3?

Solution on page 32.



By PHILIP HOWARD

PLING
a. To beg
b. A Chinese secret society
c. To weld by electricity

TONADILLA
a. A female toad
b. An operatic interlude
c. A savoury pancake

DOPPIE
a. Silly, stupid, brainless
b. A grape-skin
c. A conic function of pi

MIGMA
a. A tribal matriarch
b. An Am-rindian language
c. Solid and molten rock

Answers on page 32

